

Hafa Adai!

USA Fanter awarded \$500K in defamation suit against IPI. **PAGE 2**

Woman out on probation is summoned back to court. **PAGE 3**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 73

www.saipantribune.com

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023

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Biden backs plan to restore benefits for COFA migrants

By NICK GRUBE
HONOLULU CIVIL BEAT

WASHINGTON—President

Joe Biden has endorsed legislation sponsored by Hawaii's congressional delegation to restore access to federal ben-

efits for tens of thousands of Micronesian migrants living in the U.S. legally under the Compacts of Free Association.

If successful, the move could save Hawaii and some Pacific Island territories, most notably Guam, tens of mil-

lions of dollars each year.

Biden's fiscal year 2024 budget for the U.S. Department of the Interior

calls for passage of the Compact Impact Fairness Act, which was first introduced in

See BIDEN on Page 4

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Just a little over a month before the jury trial of former governor Ralph DLG Torres starts, his lawyers want the Superior Court to reconsider its previous decision to deny their motion to dismiss the case against the ex-governor.

With the ex-governor's trial already set to start on June 5, 2023, his defense team has now filed a motion asking the court to reconsider, or to alternatively clarify, its Sept. 12, 2022, decision to deny the defense's motion for dismissal.

"Mr. Torres respectfully requests that the court reconsider its Sept. 12, 2022, order denying defendant's motion to

See DEFENSE on Page 4

IN PENDING CRIMINAL CASE AGAINST EX-GOVERNOR TORRES Defense wants court to reconsider decision to deny dismissal of case



'MEET AND GREET'

Northern Marianas College recently hosted a second "meet and greet" with Hollywood film producer and CEO of Motion Picture Corp. of America Brad Krevoy, right, at the Tapped Out bar in Garapan. Krevoy's visit coincides with NMC's ongoing work in developing a film program to educate the next generation of filmmakers and storytellers in the Marianas. In photo with Krevoy is NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

NMC

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:

170

\$4.45M more sought for Medical Referral

» Muña also seeks immediate transfer of \$292,666 to pay vendors and avoid disruption of Medical Referral services

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has requested Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to provide \$4.45 million in supplemental funding for the remainder of

See REFERRAL on Page 4

Palacios, Skymark staying positive air service to Saipan could resume

» Haneda Airport eyed as possible route

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said he and

Skymark Airlines executives are staying positive that the company may resume air service to Saipan in the near future.

At a press conference in the governor's conference room Tuesday after-

See PALACIOS on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Tinian lost a coffee shop but gained a pizzeria after Cyber Pizza took over from Cyber Coffee Shop.

PAGE 11



NATION

Police body camera video showed when police arrived at a mass shooting at a Louisville bank.

PAGE 12



ASIA

Recent Chinese air and sea drills simulating an encirclement of Taiwan is a "serious warning."

PAGE 13



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Local

USA Fanter awarded \$500K in defamation suit against IPI

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has awarded USA Fanter Corp. Ltd. \$500,000 in damages after it found that two press releases Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC had issued defamed USA Fanter as a reputable construction contractor.

This comes after U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief

Judge Ramona Manglona determined following a trial last month that IPI did indeed defame USA Fanter through press releases that were published in two local newspapers.

“Based on the evidence presented at trial, the court finds that IPI’s two press releases that were published in two CNMI newspapers defamed USA Fanter of its reputation as a reputable construction con-

tractor, having done business in the CNMI for over 30 years, and that defamation caused USA Fanter damage. Accordingly, the clerk shall enter judgment in favor of plaintiff USA Fanter in the amount of \$250,000 in general damages and \$250,000 in punitive damages for a total judgment amount of \$500,000, plus post-judgment interest,” stated the court’s order.

According to the court’s

findings of fact and conclusion of law, IPI conceded that its 2019 press releases accusing USA Fanter of lying and inflating fees was defamatory, but contested the damages being sought by USA Fanter.

USA Fanter, a former construction contractor of IPI, sued the casino investor for defamation for making libelous statements in a press release it transmitted to *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety*.

Attorney Samuel I. Mok filed the lawsuit on behalf of USA Fanter while attorney Colin Murphy Thompson represented the plaintiff during the trial.

According to the 17-page lawsuit filed back in February 2020, the press release issued by IPI was in reference to certain construction work performed by USA Fanter with respect to the VIP wing and exterior work of IPI’s hotel-casino project in Garapan.

Specifically, IPI stated that USA Fanter purportedly lied

about the actual construction work performed, issued false reports, forged project quantity numbers, forged a payment, fabricated units of material used, fabricated prices and double-billed for work performed.

“IPI’s statements were false and defamatory and that USA Fanter’s business reputation was adversely affected as a result,” the lawsuit stated.

USA Fanter wanted IPI to make a public retraction, but IPI declined, the lawsuit added.

Palacios appoints White to CUC board, Calvo to CEDA board

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has nominated Rebecca Agnes C. White to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors, and Dana Calvo to serve on the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority board of directors.

Palacios informed Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) Monday about his nomination of White to serve on the CUC board representing Saipan and Northern Islands and

Calvo to serve on the CEDA board to represent Rota. Both nominations require Senate consent.

If confirmed, White will serve a four-year term, while Calvo will serve the remaining term vacated by newly elected Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog, which will expire on Sept. 25, 2025.

White is the office manager for the law offices of her father, Michael A. White. She is also the administrative assistant of the Friends of the Mariana Trench Monument. Calvo chairs the Rota Soil Conservation Board.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Lyla

Lyla is a charming and delightful 1 to 2-year-old stray female dog who is eagerly waiting to find her forever home. Although her breed is unknown, she has a pair of adorable German Shepherd-like ears that add to her unique and appealing appearance.

Despite her time as a stray, Lyla is a friendly, gentle, and affectionate pup. She loves to cuddle and play, and is always eager to make new friends. Her sweet personality makes her an ideal companion for anyone looking for a loyal and loving pet.

Lyla is looking for a family that can give her the love and attention she deserves. She would be a great addition to a household with children, as she loves to play and be active. She also enjoys going for walks and exploring her surroundings.

If you are looking for a furry friend to add to your



family, Lyla could be the perfect match for you. With her charming personality, friendly demeanor, and adorable looks, she is sure to melt your heart.

If you’re interested in adopting sweet Lyla, please don’t hesitate to contact the Saipan Mayor’s Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido for more information. Shelter hours are from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. Contact them at (670)-234-3647 (DOGS). You can also check out the shelter for more dogs that are available for adoption!

Saipan Tribune is partnering with Lauren Cabrera, founder of the Saipan Humane Society, in collaboration with the Saipan Mayor’s Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido, to feature their adoptable dogs into loving homes. Whether you are looking for a guard dog, lap dog, hiking buddy, or playful puppy, they most likely have the dog for you!

AFTER ALLEGEDLY TESTING POSITIVE FOR METH

Woman out on probation is summoned back to court

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has summoned back to court a woman who is out on probation and had been previously convicted of methamphetamine use and possession of a firearm after she allegedly tested positive again for methamphetamine use and for diluting a urine sample.

U.S. Probation Officer Specialist Gregory F. Arriola filed last week a petition for summons against Vickilyn Ramonica Manglona Teregeyo, saying that Teregeyo's probation should be revoked after she failed to comply with her release conditions. Teregeyo allegedly tested positive for methamphetamine and diluted a urine sample.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has since granted the requests and ordered a summons to be issued against Teregeyo.

According to court documents, Teregeyo was initially sentenced to an imprisonment term of one year and 18 days followed by a three-year term of supervised release, with specific conditions that included not to use a controlled substance and to submit to drug tests, among others.

On Sept. 24, 2020, a petition for summons was filed against her for tampering with a sweat patch, submitting a diluted urine sample, and testing positive for the use of methamphetamine on two occasions.

Instead of revoking her supervised release, the court admonished Teregeyo and amended her conditions. Since then, there were several more instances when Teregeyo was found violating her probation conditions, including positive drug tests and submitting diluted urine sample for testing.

Teregeyo's probation was finally revoked on March 26, 2021, and she was ordered to serve three months imprisonment, followed by 33 months of supervised release.

Soon after being released once more on probation, Teregeyo again admitted to using methamphetamine in November 2021. The court again chose to admonish Teregeyo instead of revoking her term of supervised release.

A few months later, Teregeyo again tested positive for methamphetamine, amphetamine, and THC, and tampered with a sweat patch, followed by another positive drug test.

Her release was revoked again on March 30, 2022 and she was ordered to serve three months imprisonment, followed by 27 months of supervised release. Also, Teregeyo

was ordered to serve three months under the home detention with an ankle monitor.

Still, Teregeyo again tested

positive for methamphetamine and had removed a drug test sweat patch without permission.

It is worth noting the report

was submitted after Teregeyo's probation had already been revoked by the court.

Her probation conditions

were again modified on Feb. 13, 2023 to include three months under the home detention component of the Loca-

tion Monitoring Program after Teregeyo admitted to using methamphetamine on Jan. 7, 2023. (Kimberly B. Esmores)

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BIDEN

From Page 1

2021 by U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono and Hawaii Congressman Ed Case and refiled in March.

The Biden administration is backing a proposal to restore access to federal benefits to COFA migrants living in the U.S. (Cory Lum/Civil Beat/2017)

The bill is part of a joint effort with the administration to put migrants from the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and the Marshall Islands on the same footing as other legal residents

PALACIOS

From Page 1

noon, Palacios disclosed that he and the Skymark executives met during Palacios’ and Marianas Visitors Authority board’s and staff’s four-day tour in Japan and, among the topics of discussion were the benefits of flying out of Haneda airport compared to Narita airport.

Palacios and the MVA team met last April 6 with Skymark Airlines president and executive officer Hayao Hora, senior managing director and executive officer for corporate planning and sales Manabu Motohashi, and general manager for corporate planning department Tetsuya Okuno.

Palacios said they’re grateful that the Skymark leadership and some of their key staff were there to receive them. He said the Skymark executives did not give specific dates as to when they will resume service to Saipan, but expressed appreciation for the CNMI’s commitment to its working relationship with the airlines.

He said their conversation was that Skymark is just recovering now after almost closing down during the pandemic and they were also going through corporate adjustments even prior to the pandemic.

The governor said those things have been addressed by Skymark and now they’re doing very well. However,

Table 2: Estimated Compact Impact Costs Reported by Hawaii, Guam, and the CNMI, by Sector, Fiscal Year 2017				
Dollars				
Sector	Hawaii	Guam	CNMI	Total
Educational services	117,870,113	72,586,977	775,832	191,232,922
Health services	22,954,383	31,718,391	2,818,223	57,490,997
Public safety	1,009,460	35,277,650	3,487,420	39,774,530
Social services	42,028,662	7,749,290	194,061	49,972,013
Total	183,862,618	147,332,308	7,275,536	338,470,462

Source: GAO analysis of compact impact reporting and grant proposals from Hawaii, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). | GAO-20-491

in the U.S. after welfare reform in the 1990s stripped them of eligibility for programs such as food stamps, Medicaid and Social Security.

But it’s also part of broader U.S. attempts to combat China’s growing

influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

“This is a good thing,” Case said. “It’s a solid solution to a nagging problem that has held me and others back from fully endorsing the renegotiated compacts.”

er, it may take about 18 months to 24 months for the airline to fully recover he added.

Palacios said Skymark is a domestic airline and that’s where their strong market is.

Saipan was Skymark’s first international venture. During the pandemic, though, Skymark closed the Narita-Saipan route.

Palacios said even Skymark’s office is closed here and their slot in Narita is no longer there. “So they have to restart the whole process,” the governor said.

Palacios said Skymark’s hub right now is Haneda and it’s easier for them to get a slot even for a charter out of Haneda than from Narita.

Palacios said even United Airlines might be looking at Haneda. “If we can have three charters a week from another airline and with three from United, that will be quite an improvement,” he said.

What the CNMI can do is help create the market and the demand, he said.

He said they also discussed strengthening the partnership between Saipan and Skymark and resuming direct air service between Tokyo and Saipan.

The governor said during their meeting with Japan Airport Terminal Co. (JATCO) and Haneda Airport executives last April 4, they discussed direct flights from Haneda for future Saipan flights.

The Tokyo-Haneda Airport is owned by the Japanese government, but JATCO operates the airport.

Palacios and MVA also had a meeting with officials of the U.S. Embassy in Japan last April 3, during which the embassy indicated that it will support travel promotion activities for the CNMI. The embassy also indicated that it would help advocate for travel to the CNMI by working with Japanese government agencies.

There was also discussion on opportunities to host CNMI investment missions at the ambassador’s residence, and bring Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Marianas Visitors Authority, Chamber of Commerce, and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands on trade mission to Japan to promote investments in the CNMI.

Palacios and the MVA team met last April 3 with Japan Association of Travel Agents executives, where they talked about the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions in Japan on May 8, 2023, the Adventure Tourism Summit in Hokkaido in September, JATA Tourism Expo in Osaka in October, and MVA’s current promotions.

Palacios and MVA board and staff also met last April 4 with Japan’s Minister of Defense, Yasukazu Hamada, officials of Japan Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism, and Japan Minister of Trade and Industry officials.

for the Commonwealth’s charges of misconduct in office.

“While the court denied Mr. Torres’ arguments, it did not clearly provide guidance on the applicable *mens rea* standard required for each count [filed against him]. Notably, there is no case law in the CNMI outlining the exact *mens rea* to be used in judging the crime of misconduct in public office,” the motion stated.

The defense further argues that preparing for trial may prove difficult without guidance on the *mens rea* standard that the Commonwealth must prove in order to charge the former governor with misconduct in public office.

“This leaves the parties uncertain of the *mens rea* standard that the Commonwealth is required to prove. The information is therefore not specific enough to advise Mr. Torres of the charges brought against him, or enable him to prepare for trial,” said the defense team.

Torres’ team of lawyers further argues that reconsideration is warranted, or at least an in-depth clarification of *mens rea* is required because,

without it, the court is allowing the defendant to be tried on defective information that fails to allege all of the essential elements of the misconduct in office charge.

“Mr. Torres timely raised the defect in this information and this court noted the information was defective as it did not allege the essential *mens rea* element. However, this court did not dismiss the information or otherwise require the Commonwealth to remedy the defective information. Instead, it is requiring Mr. Torres to stand trial on a defective information that fails to allege the essential *mens rea* element. This is in direct violation of the Sixth Amendment and Mr. Torres’ due process rights. It also impacts the jury instructions as the court cannot instruct the jury that the government has charged Mr. Torres with misconduct in public office when, as a matter of law, it has not done so,” said the defense.

Torres is represented by a team of lawyers that include Viola Alepuyo, Victorino DLG Torres, Matthew Holley, and Anthony Aguon.

The Compacts of Free Association expire this year and next. The U.S. has been in negotiations with the COFA nations for the past several years on a new series of agreements, which are expected to be finalized in the coming months.

Under the current agreements, citizens from the COFA countries are allowed to live, work and study in the U.S. and its territories without a visa in exchange for access to their islands for military operations. The U.S. also provides economic

REFERRAL

From Page 1

fiscal year 2023 to support the costs of the former Medical Referral Program (now known as the Health Network Program) and for the immediate transfer of \$292,666 to pay its vendors.

In a letter to Palacios on Monday, CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña also disclosed that, based on their analysis, the CNMI government has retained \$4,115,492 of the \$17,808,596 appropriations from Public Law 22-08 (the fiscal year 2022 budget law), and \$217,924 from Rota Local Law 22-04 that was intended for CHCC.

“We would like an accounting of the expenditures charged to that to ensure no obligation prior the date of transfer was charged to this account pursuant to Public Law 22-08 and Public Law 22-33,” Muña said.

She asked for the prompt transfer of the unused funds to CHCC, pursuant to the law that established the Health Network Program under CHCC (Public Law 22-33). Palacios signed the law on Jan. 31, 2023.

Muña said the additional funding is needed to sustain the HNP operations. She said CHCC is dedicated to providing quality healthcare services to CNMI residents, and the HNP plays a crucial role in achieving that mission.

Despite ongoing successes to expand health services access within the CNMI, Muña said there remain services that are not available within the Commonwealth. “The HNP bridges this gap for our income-eligible residents,” she said.

And while the HNP is a lifeline for many, Muña said the financial costs of this program is beginning to impede CHCC’s responsibilities to providing care within CNMI itself.

Muña noted that both Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang may remember from their time in the 16th CNMI Legislature when they both voted in favor of CHCC’s enabling legislation that there was an understanding among the members of the House of Representatives that, until the CNMI enacts a comprehensive healthcare financing system, “CHC will continue to require government-

assistance to the countries.

But in 1996, President Bill Clinton signed a welfare reform bill that inadvertently blocked COFA migrants from receiving the same federal benefits as other legal residents living in the U.S.

The result was that for the past two-plus decades states and territories have been forced to make up the difference to provide social services, whether it was health care or other assistance to needy families with children.

An amendment to the COFA agreements in 2003 provided \$30 million annually to Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands to help offset the costs of taking in COFA migrants, but by most accounts that funding has fallen woefully short.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

tal subsidy particularly for indigent care and medical referrals.”

Muña noted that, from 2018 to 2020, the average annual deficit of the Medical Referral Program was more than \$9.8 million. Yet since the transfer of the Medical Referral program to CHCC, they have been able to reduce expenditures by more than 30%, demonstrating their commitment to financial responsibility and efficiency, she said.

“Despite this progress, we still rely on public funds to keep the program operational,” the CEO said.

With understanding that the government’s budget is limited, Muña said they are committed to ensuring that any additional funds will be used prudently and effectively to bring about tangible improvements to the healthcare system.

Muña said that, pursuant to a provision of Public Law 22-33, the unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, allotments and other funds available for the use of off-island Medical Referral Program on the date of the transfer shall be transmitted to CHCC.

She said in the transfer of such funds, an amount may be reserved for the liquidation of obligations incurred prior to the handover.

Muña said that pending the transfer of any unused funds from Public Law 22-08, CHCC having been appropriated only \$1 from Public Law 22-22 (Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Act), it will now have to request Palacios and the Legislature for supplemental appropriation.

Muña said the projected need of \$4,450,507 will support the HNP offices on Saipan, Guam, and Hawaii, and the cost related to patient airfare, accommodation, ground transportation, and subsistence, from April 1 to Sept. 30, 2023.

CHCC did not include in this projection medical evacuation requiring air ambulance and the cost of returning human remains.

On the request for immediate transfer of \$292,666, Muña said that, as of March 31, 2023, cumulative transfers to CHCC was \$13,911,028, while medical travel reimbursements was \$1,014,194, for a total of \$14,925,222.

With total expenditures of \$15,217,888, this leaves CHCC \$292,666 in deficit.

AMP is selected for Teacher Ranger Teacher Program

The American Memorial Park has been selected to participate in this summer's Teacher Ranger Teacher program, which provides teachers an opportunity to learn about National Park Service educational resources and themes while earning continuing education credits through a partner-

ship between the NPS and the University of Colorado, Denver.

The selected teacher will spend 240 hours working with park staff developing an education program as well as completing three graduate credit hours of coursework in Experiential Learning online. The program will begin mid-

June and teachers who complete the requirements will receive a \$3,000 in the fall.

K-12th grade teachers are invited to apply. A portion of the work for this summer's program will be completed remotely and the selected teacher must have access to a computer and internet. The deadline for

applications is May 1, 2023.

To request an application, or to learn more about

the program contact AMP ranger Brooke Nevitt at brooke_nevitt@nps.gov and

include Teacher Ranger Teacher in the email subject line. (NPS)

Saipan students land on UAF honors lists

Two students from the Northern Marianas who are enrolled at the University of Alaska Fairbanks have been named to the university's deans' and chancellor's lists for the fall 2022 semester.

Hana Mafnas and Francine Rago, who are from Saipan,

were both included on the deans' list.

The deans' and chancellor's lists recognize students' outstanding academic achievements. Students receiving a 3.9 grade point average or higher are placed on the chancellor's list, while those receiving a

grade point average of between 3.5 and 3.89 are named to the deans' list.

UAF is a Land, Sea and Space Grant institution and is the leading doctoral degree-granting institution in the state of Alaska. It was founded in 1917. (PR)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SINMI luncheon meeting today

Do you have a heart for women? Join the Soroptimist International of the Northern Mariana Islands at its monthly luncheon meeting today, April 14, at noon at the Dolphin Restaurant of the Grandvrio Resort in Garapan. Join us to help continue our work for the "Best

for Women" in the CNMI! The Club is accepting new members! Come and meet us and see what we are all about! (PR)

GCC board meeting tomorrow

The Guam Community College Board of Trustees will hold its monthly board meeting on Friday, April 14, 2023,

at noon at the Guam Community College in Room 112, Learning Resource Center (GCC Library), Building 4000. All attendees are encouraged to wear a mask on the GCC campus.

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services should contact (671)735-5641 Ext. 5594/5597. (PR)

AK donates to Guam autism support group



ATKINS KROLL

From left, Ernie Galito, Atkins Kroll business development director; Trina Cruz, AK marketing and communications director; Josephine Blas, ACT president; Mye Ganan-Flores, ACT treasurer; and Athena Ramos, AK marketing manager.

TAMUNING, Guam—Atkins Kroll presented last Tuesday a donation of nearly \$2,000 to Autism Community Together Guam in support of Autism Awareness Month. ACT is a non-profit support group for individuals with au-

tism, their families, and supporters in Guam.

The donation of \$1,914 presented by Atkins Kroll is part of the company's Community Matters program. The amount signifies the year Atkins Kroll, Inc., one of Guam's oldest

and most prominent businesses, was founded. Atkins Kroll has made cash and in-kind contributions of \$1,914 to various charitable and non-profit organizations each month since celebrating 100 years in 2014. (PR)

CONGRESSMAN GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

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NMC-CREES professor and State Program and Food Science leader Dr. Zaidul I. Sarker is shown conducting food science experiments.

NMC

Noni plant research aims to boost CNMI economy

Research is being done at the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services to investigate the revenue-generating potential of the noni plant, a vital herbal plant widely grown and used as medicine, food, and drink on the islands.

Led by NMC-CREES professor and State Program and Food Science leader Dr. Zaidul I. Sarker, the study has revealed promising findings on the bioactive compounds present in noni and their potential use in

the food, nutraceutical, and pharmaceutical industries.

The goal of this project is to use a green and environmentally-friendly extraction method, leveraging supercritical carbon dioxide, to process noni and other medicinal plants from the Pacific region. Developed and patented by Sarker, this extraction method is expected to generate revenue and boost the local economy. For the first time, noni samples of fruit flesh, seeds, and leaves grown in the Northern Mariana Islands will be studied using this particular extraction method, marking a significant step forward in noni processing research.

Scientifically known as *Morinda citrifolia*, the noni plant has traditionally been used as medicine, food, and drink, and has been claimed to have various health benefits, including as a natural treatment for high blood pressure and diabetes, anthelmintic and antifungal, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, anxiolytic and antioxidant, wound healing, anticancer effects, cardiovascular and immune stimulation functions.

Using Sarker's patented technique of supercritical fluid extraction—a green method that involves applying high-pressure with carbon dioxide as a solvent—Sarker extracted, purified, and fractionated the bioactive compounds simultaneously from the noni plant. One aspect of the study involved comparing the bioactivity of the extracts with commercial noni products available in the local market, which are either homemade or traditionally processed.

The bioactive compounds in noni leaves, fruits, and seeds extracted and fractionated using the green extraction method were found to retain high bioactive quality in terms of bioactivity including high

anti-diabetic effect in *in-vitro* analyses. Bioactive compounds are known to possibly promote good health in the human body.

Sarker also studied the cytotoxicity effect of noni products on human breast cancer lines and found that they have inhibitory activities on anti-cancer mechanisms. However, further studies are needed at the molecular level for genome expression as well as a real-time PCR study.

NMC-CREES interim dean Patricia Coleman said the preliminary findings are promising and that CREES intends on opening a medicinal plant lab on Rota and a larger multi-purpose lab on Saipan by the end of 2023 to spur further research and economic activity.

"This research has the potential to unlock new commercial opportunities for farmers,

business owners, and stakeholders in the Pacific region and beyond, and contribute to the development of our local economy. We are excited to continue supporting Dr. Sarker's work and exploring the

potential benefits of natural medicinal plants for our community, region, and world," Coleman said.

NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D., is also supportive of Sarker's and NMC-CREES' efforts.

"We are committed to supporting research efforts like Dr. Sarker's study on the noni plant, which has the potential to bring economic benefits to our community," Deleon Guerrero said.

While Sarker's findings are still preliminary, the results could contribute to creating new industries and generating revenue for the development of the economy in the Pacific region as well as in the United States. Further studies are needed to analyze the bioactivity of the products and their toxicity by in-vivo methods. (NMC)



Sarker

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Join us for a Family Fun Day!

SAFE JAMBOREE

Saturday, April 15, 2023
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Capitol Hill Softball Field



While Supplies Last



Live Music, Cultural and Dance Performances, Activity Booths, Kids Games, Food Vendors, and Fun!

FREE #SAAM2023 T-Shirts and Raffle Prizes

For more information, call 234-3878 or email info@EndViolenceNMI.org.

For the latest news and updates, follow [@NMCADSV](https://www.facebook.com/NMCADSV) @EndViolenceNMI

This project is supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-21-GG-00814-RURA awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Water service outage in Garapan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Friday, April 14, 2023, affecting Palm Street and Royal Palm Avenue in Garapan.

■ **Time:** 7:30am to 5:30pm

■ **Area(s) affected:** East of Palm St. between Royal Palm Avenue and Beach Road in Garapan.

■ **Purpose:** To isolate a 6-inch mainline, which would require shutting down the gate valves at the intersection of Beach and Palm Street; and at the intersection of Royal Palm Avenue and Palm Street in Garapan (hotel district area).

■ **Road (s) affected:** The contractor will be working on the cross-over pipe of the waterline above the new sewer main (along Royal Palm Avenue) at Palm Street between Royal Palm Avenue and Beach Road. For the safety of our crew, motorists are advised to use caution while driving in the area.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. hotline at (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Four officials are sworn in to their posts

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang administered yesterday afternoon the oaths of office for Leila F. Staffler to serve as secretary of Labor, Sylvian O. Igisomar to serve as secretary of Lands and Natural Resources, and Henry S. Hofschneider

and Michael N. Evangelista to serve on the Commonwealth Zoning Board.

Palacios and Apatang extend their congratulations and best wishes to the four officials on their appointments to their respective departments and agencies. **(PR)**



Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, center, congratulates Henry S. Hofschneider, left, after swearing him in yesterday to serve on the Commonwealth Zoning Board. At right is Michael N. Evangelista, who was also sworn in to the board. **OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**



Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, right, congratulates Michael N. Evangelista after swearing him in yesterday to the Commonwealth Zoning Board. **OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CUC ADVISORIES

Re-scheduled power interruption for San Vicente and Kagman 3

There will be a scheduled power service interruption for the area(s) listed below:

MONDAY, April 17, 2023, for San Vicente from 8:30am to 12:30pm

■ **Area(s) affected:** San Vicente (Katbon Rd., Baranda Ln., Gulek Ln., Gadde Dr., Latte Ln., Metati Pl., Taga Dr., Monitor Pl., and Lemmok Pl.)

■ **Purpose:** For the line crew to frame three primary poles and pull 5-spans primary lines.

■ **Water well(s) affected:** None

■ **Wastewater facility affected:** None

■ **Traffic light(s):** None

WEDNESDAY, April 19, 2023, for Kagman 3, from 9am to 1pm

■ **Area(s) affected:** Kagman 3 (partial areas along Chopak Dr.)

■ **Purpose:** For the line crew to replace a defective primary power poles along Chopak Dr.

■ **Water well(s) affected:** None

■ **Wastewater facility affected:** None

■ **Traffic light(s):** None

Scheduled water service interruption for the Dandan TSA

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Monday, April 17, 2023, for the Dandan Tank Service Area.

■ **Time:** 8am to 5pm

■ **Area(s) affected:** Chalan Tun Herman Pan Road (Airport Road), As Perdido, Chalan Monsignor Martinez, from Shell Dandan to ABCD Market (partial areas of As Lito to Koblerville).

■ **Purpose:** The scheduled water outage is due to the connection of new service laterals on the distribution line in preparation for relocating existing water meter to proper right-of-way, along Chalan Tun Herman Road (Airport Road), and Lower Dandan.

■ **Roadway(s) affected:** From DD-8 to Abhu Auto Repair Shop along Chalan Tun Herman Pan Road., Lower Dandan **(PR)**



Former representative Leila F. Staffler is sworn in as the new CNMI Labor secretary. **OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**



Sylvian O. Igisomar is sworn in as secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. **OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

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Hafa Adai!

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 73Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The alarming rise of extremist anger solves nothing

All that Tennessee Republicans achieved with the expulsion of two duly elected Democratic Party members of the Tennessee legislature was to provide raw material for social media-fueled outrage, help the Democratic fundraising arm and turn a pair of progressive young Black legislators into national political figures.

You'd have thought one of the older, wiser GOP leaders in that state with a sense of how communication works these days might have seen that one coming, and that Vice President Kamala Harris would be jumping on a plane for Tennessee for a can't-lose trip for maximum personal and political benefit.

Apparently no one in the GOP was capable of looking this far ahead. The appetite for Republican lawmakers at all levels for self-destruction is boundless, and ultimately, destructive to the party and the union.

In Washington last week, many prominent Republican lawmakers stood behind a former president credibly accused of sending hush money payments to a sex worker (he has pleaded not guilty). Are Tennessee Republicans racist, or merely oblivious to the danger of looking that way before the outside world?

The backdrop to the extraordinary events in Nashville at the end of last week was the death of three children who had done nothing but attend class at their Christian school. An alienated, troubled and dangerous person with a grudge, a manifesto and an automatic weapon—a lethal combination, history teaches us—had allegedly killed three children and three adults and fired 152 rounds of ammunition, according to police.

Emotions were raw, to say the least, and high schoolers who deserve the protection of adults had started to feel like sitting ducks. So some in Nashville decided to protest the long-standing inability in this nation to prevent these shootings from happening. They arrived at the statehouse to exercise their right to protest in a free nation.

In essence, their raucous shouts from the gallery were taken up in the statehouse with three of the members, Justin Jones, Justin J. Pearson and Gloria Johnson, effectively joining the protests from the floor and sparking a measure of chaos.

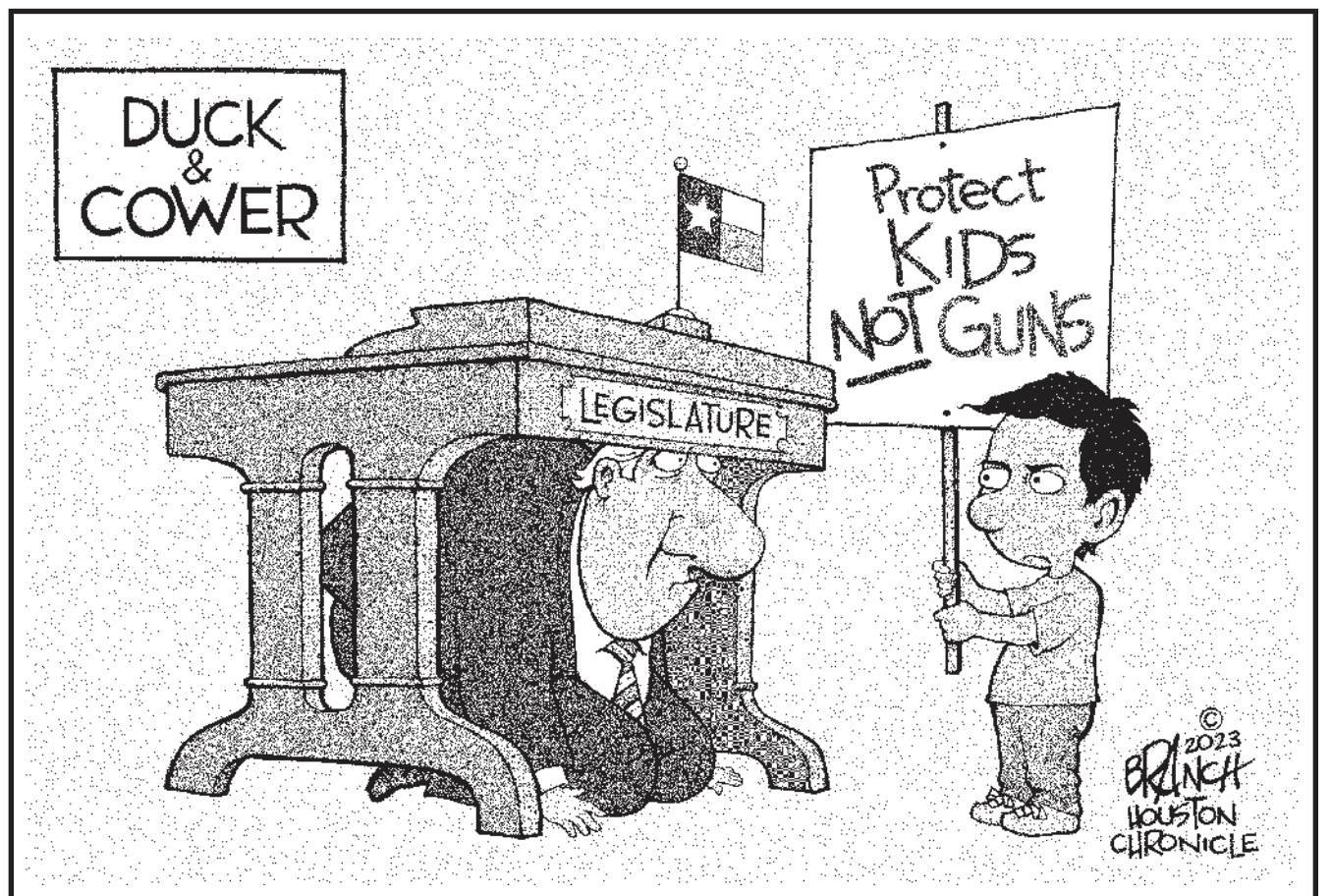
Did they break house rules? No doubt. Did they deserve censure? Arguably. Did their actions as new legislators merit expulsion and the termination of their representation of their constituencies?

Absolutely not.

Sure, Republicans saw a double standard when it came to the Democratic Party's very different view of the Jan. 6 riot by Trump supporters at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., but the comparison was hardly accurate. No one in Nashville was hurt; this was a peaceful protest. Things would have calmed down. A cool, mature person could have persuaded Jones to put his bullhorn away, remind him of his new role and persuade him instead to start working on effective legislation.

And, stranger yet, an argument easily could have been made by Republicans that this shooting was effectively a hate crime against conservative Christians, potentially enabling them to awaken a historically unsympathetic segment of the nation to the

See **ALARMING** on Page 9



Excess deaths in the US are rising at a shocking rate

The current COVID-19 situation in the U.S. is both good and bad. The good news is that COVID-19 deaths are at the lowest levels of the three-year pandemic. Given current trends, projections indicate roughly 100,000 COVID-19 deaths for 2023—less than half of any of the three previous years.

The bad news is that the number of overall excess U.S. deaths—the difference between expected numbers of deaths from all causes and the actual number of deaths observed—is rising at a shocking rate. COVID-19 is a factor, but the main causes of excess deaths are more social than medical, and the worst aspect is that they are occurring in the younger demographic in which homicides, suicides, vehicular deaths and drugs are taking a disproportionate toll on what should be the healthiest sector of the population.

Since the pandemic began, excess deaths are up by more than 1.25 million in the U.S., about 15% higher than in the pre-pandemic years. This pattern is not limited to the U.S.; excess pandemic deaths are elevated by 5% to 20% in Great Britain, most of Europe and Australia. The reason for these excess deaths defies simple explanation; the cause is certainly multifactorial. Some of this is likely an undercount of COVID-19 deaths. Another factor is delayed deaths caused by past COVID-19 infections. After any acute viral infection like COVID-19 has subsided, patients can suffer long-term medical complications including problems with inflammation and dangerous blood clotting disorders. These late effects of COVID-19 have included increases in fatal heart attacks and strokes.

In the arena of excess deaths, unanticipated effects of lockdowns that resulted in health care and societal disruptions have been just as important as COVID-19 itself. Patients have found it more difficult to access care. Appointments with physicians have been delayed; routine surgeries, including biopsies, have been canceled; and even when patients suffer symptoms, many have avoided clinics and hospitals, fearing COVID-19 or just long waits. While telemedicine has helped many people, suspicious lumps cannot be diagnosed on Zoom. In the U.S., diagnosis rates of six common cancers fell between 16% and 42% during the early days of the pandemic. These figures probably understate the number of serious conditions that were discovered late or not at all.

Combine this with deaths of despair (suicides and overdoses), vehicular accidents (possibly faster and more reckless driving) and homicides. Further, add the deaths that were occasioned by the unhealthy lifestyle choices—overeating and excessive drinking—prompted by lockdowns.

By **CORY FRANKLIN** and
ROBERT WEINSTEIN

Chicago Tribune

Dr. Cory Franklin is a retired intensive care physician. Dr. Robert Weinstein is an infectious disease specialist at Rush University Medical Center.

While the fairly strict lockdowns of the U.S., Australia and Western Europe have clearly contributed to excess deaths, Sweden is notable because government pandemic restrictions were not nearly as stringent and there were fewer lockdown deaths. Initially, Sweden was criticized for its more lenient approach to the pandemic, but Sweden has had one of the lowest total excess mortality rates in Europe since the beginning of the pandemic.

There is also a minority theory that vaccine complications have contributed to excess deaths. However, there is no reliable data from any country supporting this belief, and the experience of Sweden, which has a higher full vaccination rate than the world average, belies this notion.

The most depressing aspect of this excess death phenomenon is that life expectancy in the U.S. has dropped for the second consecutive year. Current life expectancy in the U.S. is 76.4 years, the lowest figure of the past two decades. After World War II, American longevity was the envy of the world. Now we have fallen behind Lebanon, Cuba and Czechia. All this is in the face of improved care for the elderly: The U.S. has comparable survival after age 75 with industrialized countries, better control of cardiovascular risk factors, lower stroke mortality, and higher rates of cancer screening and survival.

The alarming truth is that the decrease in U.S. life expectancy has come at the expense of teenagers, young adults and those in early middle age. This is not the result of COVID-19; in 2021 alone, more potential years of American life were lost because of drugs (primarily opiates), road deaths, firearm violence and obesity than years lost from COVID-19 during the entire pandemic.

In "The Tempest," William Shakespeare cautioned that "what's past is prologue." Englishman John Burn-Murdoch, a columnist for the Financial Times, has studied mortality patterns in the U.S. and United Kingdom and warns, "One in 25 American five-year-olds today will not make it to their 40th birthday. No parent should ever have to bury their child, but on average across the US one set of parents from every kindergarten class most likely will." Surely a clarion call, to which America must respond immediately.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Living the learned experience of bridging differences

When I was 8, my family and I immigrated to the United States from Iran. It goes without saying that neither my older brother nor I learned the intricacies of democracy in Iranian schools—quite the opposite. If I hadn't immigrated, chances are that I would have, like so many others, still desired to live in a democracy. After all, I'm the nephew of uncles imprisoned for being part of the Iranian pro-democracy student movement. But even this familiar connection is no guarantee that I would have learned about democracy, for such knowledge is not passed down to us through the gene pool.

This is why it is essential—in our self-governing society—to ensure each and every student in our country attains the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to be informed and engaged participants in our constitutional democracy. As we approach the National Week of Conversation this April 17 - 23, in which we are called to make active efforts to bridge differences, we would do well to remember that this means learning, experiencing, and internalizing skills essential to a healthy democracy's success—namely bridging and key related skills and dispositions like empathy, curiosity and listening.

This kind of civic learning happens both inside and outside of school. And like any other discipline, powerful civic learning builds on what we know about learning theory: Learning is internalized when it's contextualized within prior experience; synthesized and transferred to novel situations; and then crystalized through dedicated time for reflection. This we know to be true in

any number of areas—learning a sport, a musical instrument, a scientific principle, or driving—and it is true for civic and bridging skills.

The most important teaching and learning experiences that make me the civic actor I am today weren't about reading and memorizing as a student or lecturing as a teacher, though there is certainly a place where that type of teaching and learning is important. As an elementary school teacher, the most important learning experiences happened when students learned about rainforests and then were able to demonstrate what they learned by writing letters to their members of Congress. As a learner, my most important learning experiences happened when I applied what I'd learned about legislation to funding at a Boys and Girls Club where I volunteered or participated in a budget simulation in which I played the role of a congressional appropriator balancing the budget.

In the case of bridging, then, one can't simply read about empathy, curiosity, and listening, but must have the opportunity to put these learnings into practice, as is done in sports, driving, or virtually any other academic discipline. These elements of quality learning theory show up in the work of any number of other partners involved in the National Week of Conversation K-12 Working Group.

Lastly, part of this experience is not just what kids learn but what they see. To put it another way, it's not what we teach but what we model. Our kids are learning about their communities and the world around them through a variety of sources. It is incumbent

By ACE PARSI

The Fulcrum

Ace Parsi is Director of Coalition Engagement at iCivics, and serves as the co-chair for the National Week of Conversation K-12 Working Group.



upon parents, educators, community leaders, policymakers, and so many more to engage in productive ways and model the desired dispositions. If we are serious about teaching our children the skills necessary to sustain and strengthen 21st-century democracy in the United States, we must model civility and the civic behaviors we want the next generation to learn.

Moving forward, we invite your engagement in the process. Our K-12 working group is seeking stories of how educators are supporting bridging skills in classrooms and how parents and school board members are modeling bridging in meetings. We also are looking for resources that help contribute to the conversation.

Difference is a hallmark of democracy—not a bug. If you are engaged in this difficult work of bridging and productive dialogue across differences, we hope to show through this National Week of Conversation and beyond that that you are not alone.

Donald Trump says he's a victim of 'reverse racism'—but there is no such thing

Even if you bought for a minute that Black prosecutors in New York are targeting former President Donald Trump because he is white, his characterization of their motivation is way off base.

"I'm under investigation," Trump said during a Florida rally hours after his indictment in New York last week on charges that he made hush money payments to a porn star to silence her before the 2016 election about their alleged tryst.

"This time it's a civil investigation by another racist in reverse who also campaigned on, 'I will get Trump, I will get him.' This was her campaign. Her name is Letitia James, and she proclaimed while campaigning quote: 'I look forward to going into the Office of the Attorney General every single day suing him and then going home,' before she knew me."

Weeks earlier, Trump took to his social media platform to rail against Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, tying the prosecutor to billionaire philanthropist George Soros, a Democratic mega donor.

"Bragg is a (Soros) Racist in Reverse, who is taking his orders from D.C." Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "I beat them TWICE, doing much better the second time, and despite their DISINFORMATION campaign, they don't want to run against 'TRUMP' or my GREAT RECORD!"

There was lots of stuff wrong with that post, but let's start with the "racist in reverse" part: There is no such thing.

Reverse racism does not exist.

Follow along. That is not to say that a Black person cannot be racist. That's not what's being said here.

What is being said is that the idea of reverse racism is a false concept. Racism either exists or it doesn't. People are either racist or they're not.

You don't just get to "reverse" it and put it on some other ethnic group. It doesn't work that way.

The opposite of racism is tolerance.

Look it up.

The same thing goes for "reverse discrimination."

Opponents of affirmative action and corporate diversity initiatives like to cry "reverse discrimination" when they feel like red-blooded, American white people are getting the shaft.

They have declared war on "woke" culture, and taken a hard line against the Black Lives Matter movement because anything that doesn't put their kind first is "reverse discrimination."

But once again, it doesn't exist. It's another false concept. There is either discrimination or there is not.

The opposite of discrimination is inclusion.

Again. Look it up.

It's like saying "irregardless" when what you mean is "regardless."

If you think someone is a racist, then just say you think that person is a racist, and then we can have the debate. But don't say the person is a "reverse racist," because then you're just being ignorant.

Another problem with this "reverse racism" and "reverse discrimination" notion is that the terms unwittingly define racism and discrimination as things that white people do to everybody else.

When white people use the terms "reverse racism" and "reverse discrimination," invariably what they mean is that a non-white person is being racist and discriminatory against them.

Of course, Trump—who also called Bragg an "animal"—takes the racism debate to another level. Despite debasing "s---hole countries," trying to ban Muslims from entering the country and telling us that demonstrators at a white supremacist rally were "very fine people," Trump has yet to see anyone who resembles a racist when he looks in the mirror.

"I am the least racist person that you have ever met," Trump said to CNN's Don Lemon, a Black man, during a 2015 interview.

ALARMING

From Page 8

need for sensible measures to ensure that lethal weapons do not find their way into the hands of emotionally disturbed people.

This could have been a watershed moment for gun control in America, given that moderate Republicans will have to be part of any broad national solution to this issue, however much Democrats tweet, shout and demonize the other side of the aisle.

Had the Tennessee Republicans been smarter last week, their state might just have found the right moment to enact common-sense red flag laws and other regulatory improvements that go at least some way toward keeping guns out of the wrong hands, while also preserving Second Amendment rights so important to so many in that conservative state.

The signs of intemperate overreach hardly were limited to Tennessee in the past few days. We saw progressives calling for the impeachment of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas on the grounds of a well-reported ProPublica story that he took undisclosed vacations and transportation from a rich, conservative friend and exploited the absurd loophole that allows the Supreme Court to police itself (or not).

Should Thomas have been on that luxury yacht for free? Absolutely not, whatever he was advised. He should apologize and

change his ways. Should we be impeaching Supreme Court justices for not following rules that don't exist, even if we think they should? Obviously not.

You might say this was just the usual noise from the so-called Squad. But the point is that algorithms are set to amplify that blather, hardening both sides and getting us nowhere.

The effect of partisanship of the judiciary also was clear in Wisconsin last week as a contentious election in the state to our north looked a lot more like a race within the legislative branch than a matter of who was best qualified for the judiciary.

We saw a progressive victory, very much akin to a political triumph and also the bitterest of concession speeches. Very few people, it appears, saw the obvious price paid for all of this by those who care about bipartisan trust in the Badger State in the rule of law.

Americans, it seems, are failing utterly to see how the other side thinks, let alone how they will react. But the consequences of this are greater now. The impact is monetized by hungry bots and partisans who well know the benefits for their personal branding or political fortunes.

Balance and reasonable rhetoric doesn't pay anymore, except perhaps in delaying the moment when America rips itself apart while its kids still die.

By LEONARD GREEN

New York Daily News



"I am the least racist person anywhere in the world," Trump told reporters in 2019 during a White House news conference.

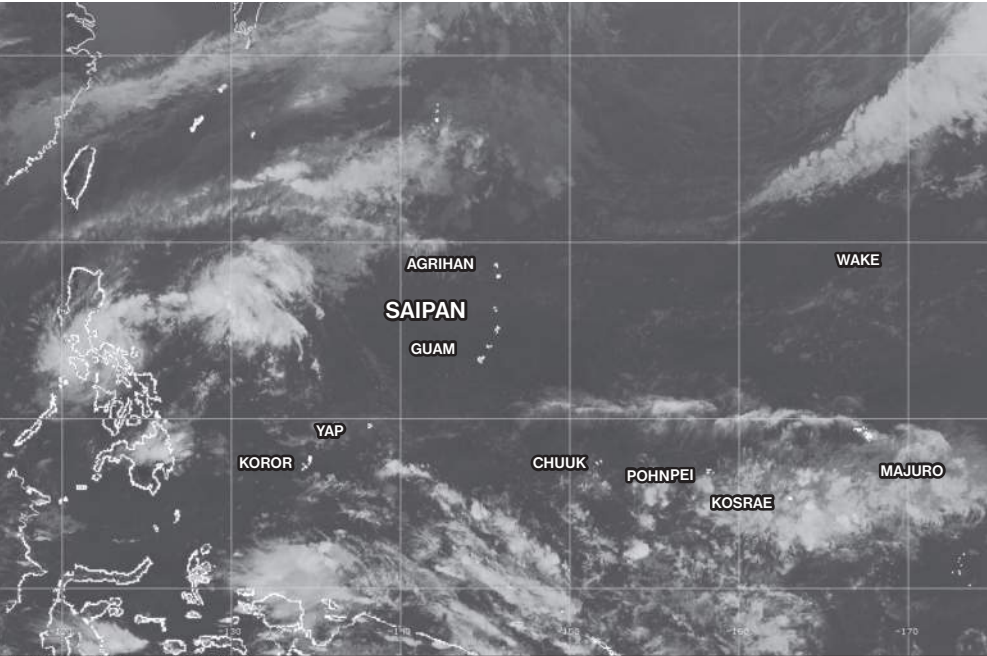
"I am the least racist person in this room," Trump said in 2020 during a presidential debate. "Not since Abraham Lincoln has anybody done what I've done for the Black community."

This is the part of the column that is set aside for uncontrolled laughter. Because Donald Trump actually said that. Out loud. About himself.

There's no reversing that.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
86°	77°	86°	77°	87°	78°	87°	77°	86°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:32 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies, gentle winds from the east. Ritidian buoy has combined seas at 4 to 5 feet while altimetry has 5 to 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Showers	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:23 AM	11:44 AM
Friday	-	1:21 AM	12:48 PM
Saturday	-	2:15 AM	1:51 PM
Sunday	-	3:04 AM	2:52 PM
Monday	-	3:49 AM	3:50 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Showers	72° / 61°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	83° / 56°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	76° / 72°
Honolulu	Showers	83° / 73°
London	Mostly Sunny	39° / 36°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	65° / 54°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	79° / 57°
Miami	Showers	80° / 72°
New York	Partly Cloudy	82° / 62°
Osaka	Sunny	70° / 51°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	41° / 34°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	67° / 54°
Rome	Showers	55° / 37°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
San Francisco	Sunny	59° / 45°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	67° / 45°
Tokyo	Sunny	69° / 57°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	84° / 59°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
2:31 AM	High Tide	1.75
7:29 AM	Low Tide	1.44
11:38 AM	High Tide	1.70
7:43 PM	Low Tide	-0.14

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2023			
DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 4, 5, 7
TW9308	3:45AM	7:30AM	4, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
TW9307	9:00PM	2:45AM+1	3, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Business

Cyber Pizza opens for takeout on Tinian

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tinian lost a coffee shop but gained a pizzeria late last year.

This, after Cyber Pizza took over from Cyber Coffee Shop in December 2022.

Cashier/owner Rosemarie Shrestha said they opened Cyber Pizza shortly after acquiring the old coffee shop business on the island.

"Before it was called Cyber Coffee Shop and when we took over the business we changed it to Cyber Pizza because we mostly sell pizza," she said.

The takeout-only pizzeria's myriad of pizza flavors are cheese, pepperoni, Hawaiian, vegetarian, meatlovers, chicken with veggies, and supreme and range in price from \$18 to \$20 and come in 12- and 16-inch pies.

So far, their bestselling pizza is the supreme.

"Also we just added a new item in our menu, it's called Cyber's Special, which is our unique burger pizza," added Shrestha.

They also have other non-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cyber Pizza is now Tinian's one-stop shop for pizza cravings with a myriad of flavors available.

pizza items on the menu, namely french fries, chicken nuggets, chicken wings, mozzarella cheese sticks, and the ever popular Combo 1 (chicken nuggets and french fries).

Cyber Pizza also recently introduced the Deez Burger which uses a savory and spicy mayo sriracha sauce. It only

costs \$10 and comes with free iced tea.

Its beverage offerings are also sure summer heat-busters chocolate, cookies n' cream, and strawberry milkshakes as well as matcha, mango, and buko pandan pearl shakes. They also have mocha and cappuccino coffee as well as

butter cookies.

Shrestha said the first few months of operations have been challenging not only because Tinian is such a small island with around 2,000 people, but also because of rising cost of ingredients and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cyber Pizza is located in

San Jose, Tinian and is open Mondays-Fridays from 10am to 9pm and Saturdays-Sundays from 10am to 10pm.

For more information or for advance orders, call (670) 433-8141/783-9685 or email dipenxrestha@gmail.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cyber Pizza recently unveiled the Deez Burger.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cyber Pizza's salivatingly delicious chicken wings.

IMF: Prolonged high inflation dims outlook for world economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The outlook for the world economy this year has dimmed in the face of chronically high inflation, rising interest rates and uncertainties resulting from the collapse of two big American banks.

That's the view of the International Monetary Fund, which on Tuesday downgraded its outlook for global economic growth. The IMF now envisions growth this year of 2.8%, down from 3.4% in 2022 and from the 2.9% estimate for 2023 it made in its previous forecast in January.

The fund said the possibility of a "hard landing,"

in which rising interest rates weaken growth so much as to cause a recession, has "risen sharply," especially in the world's wealthiest countries. Those conditions are also increasing the risks to global financial stability, the fund warned.

"The situation remains fragile," Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, the IMF's chief economist, told reporters Tuesday. "Downside risks predominate."

The IMF, a 190-country lending organization, is forecasting 7% global inflation this year, down from 8.7% in 2022 but up from its January forecast of

6.6% for 2023.

"Inflation is much stickier than anticipated even a few months ago," Gourinchas wrote in the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook.

Persistently high inflation is expected to force the Federal Reserve and other central banks to keep raising rates and to keep them at or near a peak longer to combat surging prices. Those ever-higher borrowing costs are expected to weaken economic growth and potentially destabilize banks that had come to rely on historically low rates.

Already, Gourinchas warned, higher rates are "starting to have serious side effects for the finan-

cial sector."

The fund's annual Global Financial Stability Report, also released Tuesday, issued recommendations for international decisionmakers:

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Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of : FCD-GU CIVIL
the Petition to Appoint : ACTION NO.
General Guardianship : 23-0132
for :
C.J.D.G., : NOTICE OF
HEARING ON
PETITION
Minor Child, : FOR
APPOINTMENT OF
LEGAL
GUARDIANSHIP
By :
ESTHER MONIQUE A. : Date: August 14,
DELEON GUERRERO : 2023
and FREDDY : Time: 9:00 a.m.
U. HOFSCHEIDER III, : Judge: Teresa
Petitioners. : Kim-Tenorio

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the date and time above set forth, the Court shall hold a hearing on the Petition for Appointment of Legal Guardianship filed by Petitioners Esther Monique A. Deleon Guerrero and Freddy U. Hofschneider III, at the CNMI Superior Court, Guma Hustisia, House of Justice, Imwaal Aweewe, in Susupe, Saipan, CNMI. All interested parties should appear.

Dated this 6th day of April, 2023.

/s/
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

Suit: Chocolate maker ignored natural gas alert before blast

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Pennsylvania candy-maker ignored warnings of a natural gas leak at its chocolate factory and bears responsibility for a subsequent explosion that killed seven workers and injured several others, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday.

The family of Judith "Judy" Lopez-Moran, a 55-year-old mother of three, filed what their lawyers called the first wrongful-death suit against R.M. Palmer Co. after the March 24 blast in West Reading.

Workers smelled natural gas

that day and notified Palmer, but the 75-year-old, family-owned company "did nothing," the lawsuit said.

"The gas leak at the factory and the horrific explosion it caused was foreseeable, predictable, and preventable," the suit said. "Tragically, Judith Lopez-Moran's death and suffering were preventable."

The lawsuit, filed in Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, also names gas utility UGI, which declined comment. A message was sent to Palmer seeking comment.

Authorities are still investi-

gating the cause of the explosion, which leveled a building in the factory complex and damaged several other buildings in West Reading, a small town 60 miles (96 kilometers) northwest of Philadelphia.

Federal safety officials previously confirmed they were studying the role of a natural gas pipeline in the blast. The National Transportation Safety Board has called what happened a natural gas explosion and fire, citing preliminary information from local authorities and the utility about the pipeline.



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El D. Cabrera
Administrator
Zabrina S. Cruz
Director, DEQ

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE FOR SAIPAN INDUSTRIAL INC. CO. FACILITY
AREA OF CONCERN: MASON PLACE, AS LITO, SAIPAN

DATE: April 06, 2023

On November 30, 2022, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) notified **Saipan Industrial Inc. Co. ("Saipan Industrial")** to begin negotiations for a consent decree for the cleanup of calcium carbide released into an unlined berm, approximately 20'x7' with an estimated depth of 6'-8", located at Saipan Industrial's industrial gas manufacturing facility at Mason Place, As Lito, Saipan.

NATURE OF RELEASE, SUSPECTED HARMFUL SUBSTANCES, AND POTENTIAL RISKS TO HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT: The unlined berm at the site is filled with calcium carbide waste, found by DEQ to be characteristically hazardous due to its pH level. As a result of the release, land areas and drainages below the Site are reasonably expected to be affected by the contamination. The proposed consent decree will require Saipan Industrial to complete removal and remediation work specified in the draft consent decree's Scope of Work, including but not limited to performance of a risk assessment to identify the nature and extent of the contamination; removal of all by-product material consistent with a removal plan; soil and groundwater sampling consistent with a sampling and analysis plan; testing of excavated materials to determine whether they are hazardous or non-hazardous for disposal purposes; and assessment of whether additional removal work or remediation is necessary.

Written comments can be submitted by mail to DEQ, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950; sent by fax to 664-8540; or emailed to josh.santos@becq.gov.mp. Comments must be received by DEQ no later than May 05, 2023. All comments received by DEQ will be included as part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed activity. In addition, if ten or more persons request a public meeting on the subject of this public notice, DEQ may hold a public meeting to receive comments. Interested persons may obtain further information by scheduling an appointment with DEQ, Chalan Pale Arnold - Middle Road.

/s/
ELI D. CABRERA
Administrator
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

/s/
ZABRINA S. CRUZ
Acting Director
Division of Environmental Quality

Nation

Video shows Louisville police under fire from bank shooter

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Police body camera video released Tuesday showed the chaotic moments when police arrived at the scene of a mass shooting at a bank in downtown Louisville, as the shooter they couldn't see from the street rained bullets down on them.

The videos, taken from two wounded officers' lapels, offer a rare perspective of police officers responding to a massacre that killed five and injured eight others Monday. One, a rookie officer, was shot in the head within minutes of arriving at the scene, as his partner was grazed by a bullet and sought cover while still trying to take down the shooter.

Louisville Metro Police Department Deputy Chief Paul Humphrey walked reporters through edited footage and still photos at a new conference Tuesday and praised the responding officers for their heroism.

They received the call of a shooting at Old National Bank at 8:38 a.m., and the two officers arrived three minutes later, according to a chronol-

ogy provided by police. They hadn't even gotten out of the patrol car when the gunman began firing on them.

"Back up, back up, back up," one officer shouted as gunshots thundered in the background.

One still image from surveillance video showed the 25-year-old shooter, who worked at the bank, holding a rifle, wearing jeans, a blue button-down shirt and sneakers, surrounded by broken glass inside the building. He had already shot numerous people inside, and police said he set up an ambush position to attack officers as they arrived.

The front doors were glass, elevated from the sidewalk, and because of the reflection, the officers could not see the shooter inside, Humphrey said. But he could see them.

Officer Cory Galloway retrieved a rifle from the trunk of the patrol car.

"Cover for me," he said, and they reported to dispatch that there had been shots fired.

Galloway was training rookie Officer Nickolas Wilt, who had graduated from the police



This screen grab taken from the body cam video of Louisville Metro Police Department Officer Nickolas Wilt, left foreground, shows Officer Cory Galloway, right, with his weapon drawn as the two officers approach an active shooting situation at Old National Bank, in Louisville, Ky., Monday, April 10, 2023.

academy just 10 days earlier. The videos showed them walking up the stairs toward the front door when the gunman fired a barrage of bullets.

Wilt was shot in the head, though that was not captured on video. Galloway was grazed in the shoulder, police said. His body camera showed that he fell and then took cover behind a concrete planter

at the bottom of the staircase leading to the building. Sirens from the dozens of police cars coming toward them wailed in the background.

"The shooter has an angle on that officer," he said in the video recording. "We need to get up there. I don't know where he's at, the glass is blocking him."

A video taken by a bystander across the street, which police also released Tuesday, showed him darting back and forth from one side of the planter to another, trying to get a shot at the gunman.

He waited, and as other officers arrived, more gunshots rang out and glass shattered.

Galloway fired toward the gunman at 8:44 a.m., three minutes after arriving.

"I think I got him down! I think he's down!" he shout-

ed. "Suspect down! Get the officer!"

He advanced into the building, and shards of glass crunched under his feet. The video then showed Galloway approaching the suspect, who lay on the ground inside the lobby next to a long rifle.

"I think you can see the tension in that video," Humphrey said Tuesday. "You can understand the stress that those officers are going through. ... They did absolutely exactly what they needed to do to save lives. Once officers arrived on scene, not another person was shot."

Wilt was transported in the back of a police car to a hospital, Humphrey said. In the chaotic first minutes, police treated and triaged the victims inside. Humphrey said the ambulance service was short-staffed, so a police lieutenant

drove the ambulance while emergency crews treated people at the scene.

Wilt was still in critical but stable condition Tuesday, according to University of Louisville Hospital Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jason Smith.

Two of the four wounded still in the hospital had injuries that were not life-threatening, Smith said.

Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg said it was crucial to release the footage because "transparency is important—even more so in a time of crisis."

Police Chief Jacquelyn Gwinn-Villaroel said at a news conference that bank employee Connor Sturgeon, 25, bought the AR-15 assault-style rifle used in the attack at a local dealership on April 4.

Armed with the rifle, Sturgeon killed his co-workers—including a close friend of Kentucky's governor—while livestreaming the attack.

"We do know this was targeted. He knew those individuals, of course, because he worked there," Gwinn-Villaroel said, but didn't give an indication of a motive behind the shooting.

Gwinn-Villaroel praised the "heroic actions" of officers who engaged the shooter without hesitation when they arrived.

"They went towards danger in order to save and preserve life," she said. "They stopped the threat so other lives could be saved. No hesitation, and they did what they were called to do."

Criminal probe focuses on school where boy, 6, shot teacher

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (AP)—Prosecutors in the Virginia city where a 6-year-old shot his teacher in an elementary school classroom are investigating whether the "actions or omissions" of any school employees could lead to criminal charges, according to court documents released Tuesday.

Howard Gwynn, the commonwealth's attorney in Newport News, filed a petition for a special grand jury to probe if any "security failures" contributed to the shooting at Richneck Elementary in January that seriously wounded teacher Abby Zwerner.

Gwynn wrote that an investigation could also lead to recommendations "in the hopes that such a situation never occurs again."

Gwynn's petition was released a day after his office charged the boy's mother with felony child neglect and a misdemeanor count of endangering a child by reckless storage of a firearm. The child used his mother's 9mm handgun to shoot Zwerner. Police say the weapon was legally purchased.

Last week, Zwerner filed a \$40 million lawsuit against the school system, accusing school officials of gross negligence and of ignoring multiple warnings from teachers and other school

employees that the boy had taken a gun to school on the day of the shooting.

Zwerner also alleges that school officials knew the boy "had a history of random violence" at school and at home, including that he "strangled and choked" his kindergarten teacher.

"Our lawsuit makes clear that we believe the school division violated state law, and we are pursuing this in civil court," Diane Toscano, an attorney for Zwerner, said Monday.

The prosecutor's decision to investigate school employees for any criminal activity is the latest fallout from the shooting, which sent shockwaves through Newport News, a shipbuilding city of about 185,000 people near the Chesapeake Bay.

Days after the shooting, school officials revealed that Richneck administrators suspected the child may have had a weapon, but they didn't find it despite searching his backpack.

Parents and teachers lambasted administrators, saying students who assault classmates and staff rarely face consequences, and that Zwerner's shooting could have been prevented if not for a toxic environment in which teachers' concerns are ignored.

It is not the first school

shooting to spark a criminal investigation into school officials, although they are quite rare, experts said. Civil suits are far more common, but have varying degrees of success.

For instance, authorities in Florida accused a former school resource officer of hiding during the Parkland school massacre in 2018. Scot Peterson was charged with negligence for not entering the building during the rampage that left 17 people dead. Peterson has said he did the best he could; his trial is scheduled to start next month.

In 2021, the families of the people killed in Parkland, most of the wounded and others reached a \$25 million settlement with the Broward County school district in a negligence lawsuit.

A prosecutor in Michigan criticized Oxford High's decision in 2021 to keep a teenager in school before he killed four students, stating that an investigation would determine if any school officials should be charged. No school employees have been charged.

A civil suit was filed over the Oxford shooting. But a judge ruled that school staff and administrators cannot be sued and dismissed Oxford Community Schools from lawsuits, citing governmental immunity.

Key lawmakers win access to mishandled classified docs

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration has begun sharing with a bipartisan group of lawmakers known as the Gang of Eight classified documents found in the possession of former President Donald Trump, President Joe Biden and former Vice President Mike Pence, according to five people familiar with the matter.

Top lawmakers, including Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, had for months been asking the Justice Department to provide access to the documents—or at least an assessment of what was in them—so that Congress could gauge the potential national security harm.

That process recently got underway, said the people, who insisted on anonymity to discuss private interactions between the Justice Department and Congress.

"They're finally moving. We've got a lot more documents to review and, more importantly, to make sure there was mitigation taken," Warner said Wednesday, adding that the documents were being received on a rolling basis. He said that while he was "glad to see progress," it is "still unacceptable for me that it took this long."

A Justice Department special counsel, Jack Smith, is investigating whether Trump mishandled roughly several hundred documents with classified markings that were taken after his term ended to Mar-a-Lago, the former president's Florida estate, and whether he or his representatives sought to obstruct that probe. Another special counsel, Robert Hur, is also investigating the improper retention of documents from Biden's time as vice president that have been located in his Delaware home

and his pre-presidential think-tank office. Biden has said he had no knowledge the documents were there.

A lawyers for Pence also said in January that an apparently small number of papers were inadvertently boxed and transported to his Indiana home at the end of the Trump administration.

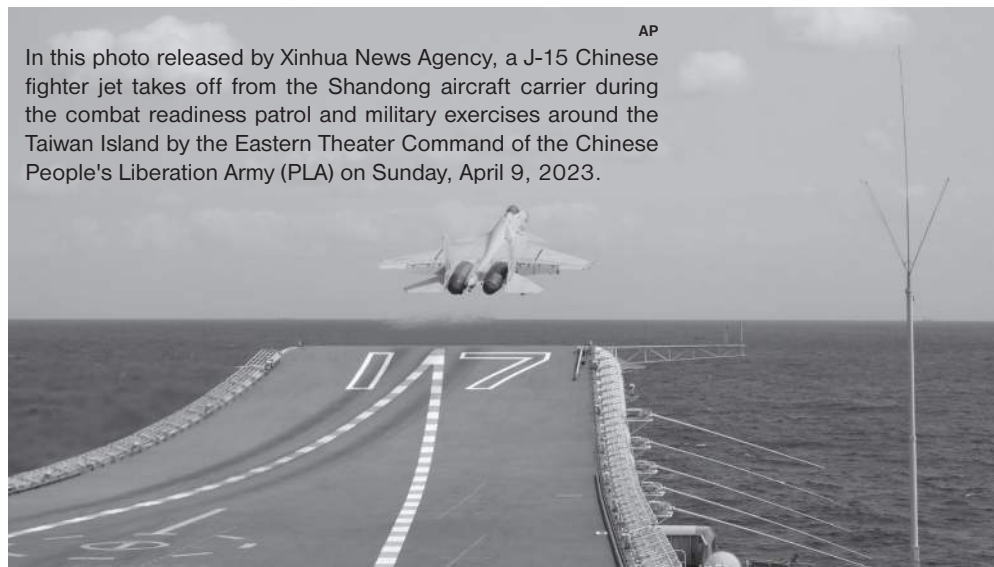
Punchbowl News first reported the development.

The Biden administration held a classified briefing on the documents earlier this year for members of Congress, but senators accused the executive branch of stonewalling and insisted that they needed for national security reasons to see for themselves what materials the men had been holding.

The Justice Department had said that it wanted to be cooperative with the lawmakers' demands within the confines of the ongoing investigations.

Asia

China: Taiwan encirclement drills is a 'serious warning'



AP
In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, a J-15 Chinese fighter jet takes off from the Shandong aircraft carrier during the combat readiness patrol and military exercises around the Taiwan Island by the Eastern Theater Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) on Sunday, April 9, 2023.

BEIJING (AP)—Recent Chinese air and sea drills simulating an encirclement of Taiwan were intended as a “serious warning” to pro-independence politicians on the self-governing island and their foreign supporters, a Chinese spokesperson said Wednesday.

The three days of large-scale air and sea exercises named Joint Sword that ended Monday were a response to Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen’s meeting with U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California last week during a transit visit to the U.S. China had warned of serious consequences if that meeting went ahead.

“The People’s Liberation Army recently organized and conducted a series of countermeasures in the Taiwan Strait and surrounding waters, which is a serious warning against the collusion and provocation of Taiwan independence separatist forces and external forces,” Zhu Fenglian, a spokesperson for the Cabinet’s Taiwan Affairs Office, said at a biweekly news conference.

“It is a necessary action to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity,” she said.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary and regularly sends ships and warplanes into airspace and waters near the island.

Such missions have grown more frequent in recent years, accompanied by increasingly bellicose language from the administration of Communist Party leader Xi Jinping. Any conflict between the sides could draw in the U.S., Taiwan’s closest ally, which is required by law to consider all threats to the island as matters of “grave concern.”

The vast majority of Taiwanese favor maintaining their current de-facto independent status, while Tsai has said there is no need for a formal declaration since the island democracy is already an independent nation.

Despite that, China, which does not recognize Taiwan’s government institutions and has cut off contact with Tsai’s

administration, routinely accuses her of plotting formal independence with outside backing — generally seen as referring to the U.S.

“External forces are intensifying their endeavor of containing China with Taiwan as a tool,” Zhu said.

Zhu also repeated China’s assertion that its military threats are “targeted at Taiwan’s independence separatist activities and interference from external forces, and by no means at our compatriots in Taiwan.”

What that means in practical terms isn’t clear, although Beijing has long exploited political divisions within Taiwanese society, which boasts a robust democracy and strong civil liberties.

“Taiwanese compatriots should clearly recognize the serious harm that the provocation of Taiwan independence forces poses to cross-strait relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, recognize the interests, distinguish right from wrong, and stand on the correct side of history,” Zhu said.

Press that a fighter jet dropped bombs directly onto a crowd of people who were gathering at 8 a.m. for the opening of a local office of the country’s opposition movement outside Pazi-gyi village in Sagaing region’s Kanbalu township. The area is about 110 kilometers (70 miles) north of Mandalay, the country’s second-largest city.

UN to review presence in Afghanistan following Taliban ban

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The United Nations said Tuesday it is reviewing its presence in Afghanistan after the Taliban barred Afghan women from working for the world organization — a veiled suggestion the U.N. could move

to suspend its mission and operations in the embattled country. Last week, Afghanistan’s Taliban rulers took a step further in the restrictive measures they have imposed on women and said that Afghan women employed with the U.N. mission could no longer report for work. They did not further comment on the ban. The U.N. said it cannot accept the decision, calling it an unparalleled violation of women’s rights. It was the latest in sweeping restrictions imposed by the Taliban since they seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021 as U.S. and NATO troops were withdrawing from the country after 20 years of war.

World

Russian forces in Crimea brace for possible assault by Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—The Moscow-appointed leader of Crimea said Tuesday the region is on guard for what may be an impending Ukrainian counteroffensive.

Sergei Aksyonov told reporters that Russian forces in Crimea had built “modern, in-depth defenses” and had “more than enough” troops and equipment to repel a possible Ukrainian assault after 13 months of war following Russia’s full-scale invasion.

“We cannot underestimate the enemy, but we can definitely say that we are ready (for an attack) and that there will be no catastrophe,” he said.

His comments came days after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reaffirmed Kyiv’s intention to take back the Black Sea peninsula that Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

Aksyonov first announced the beginning of fortification works in Crimea in November, without giving details. In February, at a security meeting chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin, he said that the works were set to finish by April.

Satellite photos from Maxar

Technologies show a complex web of trenches and other fortifications dug near Medvedivka, a small town near a crossing between Crimea and mainland Ukraine, suggesting Russian concerns about a possible Ukrainian attack there.

Military analysts expect Kyiv to take advantage of improving weather to seize the battlefield initiative with new batches of Western weapons, including scores of tanks, and fresh troops trained in the West.

Ukrainian forces could seek to break through the land corridor between Russia and Crimea, heading from Zaporizhzhia toward Melitopol and the Azov Sea. That might split the Russian forces in two.

Kyiv’s forces face a formidable challenge to dislodge Russian forces, however. Their armor likely will encounter minefields, anti-tank ditches and other obstacles, while extensive trench systems provide cover for Moscow’s troops.

The Kremlin wants Kyiv to acknowledge Russia’s sovereignty over Crimea and also recognize September’s annexation of the Ukrainian provinces of Donetsk, Kherson,

Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia. Ukraine has vowed to drive the Russians out of all occupied territories and has ruled out any talks with Moscow until it fully reclaims control of its land.

The Ukraine-held parts of the four provinces have felt the brunt of Russian bombardments in recent months, and seven civilians were wounded by Russian shelling in Donetsk and Kherson on Monday and overnight, the presidential office reported Tuesday.

Russia on Tuesday also used Su-35 aircraft to launch strikes on two towns in the Zaporizhzhia region, the head of the Ukrainian presidential office said.

Andriy Yermak said in a Telegram post that local authorities were assessing the damage in the towns of Orikhiv and Huliaipole, each of which had a pre-war population of just under 14,000.

Russian artillery also hit a church in Kherson, blowing out its windows and damaging its roof and walls, the Ukrainian regional military administration reported on Telegram. It said there had been no casualties.

Italy declares state of emergency as migrant numbers surge

ROME (AP)—Italy’s right-wing government on Tuesday declared a six-month national state of emergency to help it cope with a surge in migrants arriving on the country’s southern shores.

State TV said a special commissioner was expected to be named. Initial funding of 5 million euros (nearly \$5.5 million) was also approved as part of the measure approved by Premier Giorgia Meloni and her Cabinet.

In a statement after the Cabinet meeting, the government said the state of emergency was deemed necessary “to carry out with urgency extraordinary measures to reduce congestion” at an overwhelmed migrant shelter on a tiny Italian island in the Mediterranean.

Also needed are “new structures, suitable both for sheltering as well as the processing and repatriation of migrants who don’t have the requisites to stay” in Italy, the government statement said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic Italy’s governing coalitions also imposed a state of emergency, enabling the Cabinet to mandate many coping measures by decree, temporarily

bypassing the usually long parliamentary process for funding and regulations.

“Let’s be clear, this doesn’t resolve the problem, whose solution is tied to a mindful and responsible intervention of the European Union,” Civil Protection and Sea Policies Minister Nello Musumeci was quoted as saying by the Italian news agency ANSA.

Largely unsuccessfully, Meloni’s government, like several others before, has pressed for more solidarity from fellow EU countries, which often don’t make good on pledges to accept some of the asylum-seekers hoping to find relatives or work in northern Europe.

Since the start of this year, some 31,000 migrants, either rescued by Italian military boats or charity ships or reaching Italy without assistance, have disembarked, according to Interior Ministry figures. That’s nearly four times the roughly 8,000 for the same period in each of the two previous years.

The arrivals of migrants, who set out in unseaworthy vessels launched by smugglers from northern African shores, seem destined to swell. Early

on Wednesday, a smugglers’ boat, crowded with some 700 passengers, was expected to pull into the port of Catania, a major city in eastern Sicily.

Italian coast guard boats had been escorting the distressed fishing vessel toward shore when a breakdown forced it to need towing, slowing its advance. The coast guard had already transferred some 100 of the passengers when rough seas made that operation too risky, and the decision was taken to leave the rest of the migrants aboard until the vessel could reach port.

On one recent day alone, 26 migrant boats, many of them without needing rescue, reached the Lampedusa, a tiny Italian island south of Sicily. The facility on Lampedusa which shelters migrants so they can be provisionally identified as a first step toward any asylum application, was reeling under the relentless stream of arrivals.

The shelter is meant to accommodate about 350-400 people, but in recent days, there were 3,000. Italy chartered empty commercial ferries to transfer hundreds of them to Sicily or the mainland.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Airstrikes on Myanmar village feared to have killed 100

BANGKOK (AP)—Airstrikes by Myanmar’s military on Tuesday killed as many as 100 people, including many children, who were attending a ceremony held by opponents of army rule, said a witness, a member of a local pro-democracy group and independent media. The military is increasingly using airstrikes to counter a widespread armed struggle against its rule, which began in February 2021 when it seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. More than 3,000 civilians are estimated to have been killed since then by security forces. A witness told The Associated

Environment

To fight cancer, EPA wants sterilizer companies to emit less

By MICHAEL PHILLIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday proposed limiting the use of the chemical ethylene oxide after finding a higher than expected cancer risk at facilities that use it to sterilize billions of medical devices each year.

The EPA says its proposal will reduce ethylene oxide emissions by roughly 80% by targeting 86 medical sterilization facilities across the United States. The companies will also have to test for the antimicrobial chemical in the air and make sure their pollution controls are working properly.

“EPA’s number one priority is protecting people’s health and safety,” EPA Administrator Michael Regan said in a statement. The agency’s proposals “would significantly reduce worker and community exposure to harmful levels of ethylene oxide,” he said.

Darya Minovi, a senior research analyst with the Union of Concerned Scientists, called the action overdue by “almost a decade” and said it should have gone further to require monitoring at facility fence lines so



A syringe is prepared at a clinic in Norristown, Pa., Dec. 7, 2021.

people know what is entering their neighborhoods.

“I’m relieved and pleased that the EPA has finally issued proposed standards that are based on their own scientists’ recommendations on an updated, higher cancer risk value,” Minovi said in a statement.

The tightened safeguards are driven by the EPA’s better understanding that ethylene oxide’s threat is severe. The

chemical is classified as a pesticide. A worker in a medical sterilizing plant, over the course of a career, could see their risk shoot up by as much as one extra case of cancer for every 10 people exposed. The EPA’s generally acceptable increase in lifetime cancer risk is 1 in 10,000.

Ethylene oxide is a gas used to sterilize roughly half of all medical devices and is also used to ensure the safety of

certain spices and other food products. It is used to clean everything from catheters to syringes, pacemakers and plastic surgical gowns. Brief exposure isn’t considered a danger, but breathing it long term elevates the risk of breast cancer and lymphoma, according to the agency.

In 2016, the EPA updated its assessment of ethylene oxide’s danger based on information about exposed

workers at sterilizing facilities, finding the chemical was many times more threatening than previously known. Analysis released by the agency two years later found that cancer risk was too high near some medical sterilization plants and some other facilities that release ethylene oxide.

“That set off a regulatory alarm bell,” said Marvin Brown, an attorney at the environmental group Earthjustice.

Public concern grew. Sterigenics shuttered a medical sterilization plant in a Chicago suburb after monitoring found emissions spikes in nearby neighborhoods. They eventually settled numerous lawsuits.

In 2022, the EPA laid out the risk faced by residents who live near medical sterilization facilities. In Laredo, Texas, for example, residents and activists fought to clean up a sterilization facility run by Missouri-based Midwest Sterilization Corp. It was one of 23 sterilizers in the United States that the EPA said posed a risk for people nearby.

“This, for us, feels like a win,” said Sheila Serna, the climate science and policy director at the environmental group Rio Grande International Study Center. She said despite improvements at the Laredo facility, the risk is still too high. Her group sued the EPA in December, pushing it to tighten ethylene oxide protections. She agreed with Minovi that the proposal should require fence line monitoring as well as protections at warehouses where sterilized products are temporarily stored.

Midwest Sterilization said the company’s work helps provide life-saving medical care.

“Most of the changes proposed by the EPA have already been achieved by Midwest, or are currently being implemented,” the company said in a statement.

The EPA said many facilities have already sharply reduced emissions, but those that haven’t will now have to meet stricter requirements.

Scott Whitaker, president and CEO of the Advanced Medical Technology Association, said medical sterilizers provide a vital service and many devices “cannot be sterilized by another method.” He said the EPA’s risk assessment overstates the threat employees face and undervalues the protections they are already provided.

He added that the facilities are already at capacity and if some close, it could delay medical care. The 18-month time frame for installing technology to reduce emissions after the final rule is issued is “much too short,” Whitaker said in a statement. “It could take many months for abatement equipment to arrive. Supply chains and manufacturing are still recovering from the pandemic.”

Susan Buchanan, an environmental and occupational health physician at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health, said ethylene oxide is a “potent carcinogen” that is also very good at sterilizing medical equipment. She rejects arguments that the EPA overstated ethylene oxide’s risks.

As summer heat looms, Japan urged to curb impact, emissions

TOKYO (AP)—Temperatures are rising in Japan and summer is coming fast.

Cherry blossoms are blooming sooner than ever before, chignon-pink that’s traditionally heralded spring for the nation popping up just two weeks into March.

In Osaka, temperatures soared to 25 degrees Celsius (77 degrees Fahrenheit) on March 22, a record for that time of year. Tottori, in the southwest, hit 25.8 C (78 F) on the same day, the highest in 140 years, according to climatologist Maximiliano Herrera. Tottori’s temperatures usually hover around 12 C (54 F) in March.

With thermometers already shooting upward and fossil fuel use that feeds climate change still creeping up around the world, Japan is set for another sweltering summer and is at growing risk of flooding and landslides. The nation is scrambling to protect communities from warming and has pledged to slash emissions, but in the short term the worsening weather remains a threat.

“The risks from climate change are right before us,” said Yasuaki Hijioka, deputy director of the Center for Climate Change Adaptation at the National Institute for Environmental Studies in Tsukuba, northeast of Tokyo.

“You can in principle try escaping from a flood. But heat affects such a wide area, there is almost no escape. Everyone is affected.”

Japan is already prone to natural disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis and typhoons. Secure infrastructure has kept people safe for the most part. But climate change means communities are often caught off guard because the systems were engineered for the

weather conditions of the past.

“If you’re pushing the electrical grid that was designed for the 20th century into a new century of warming and heat extremes, then you are going to have to consider whether your energy system and your health care system are really designed for a warming planet,” said Kim Cobb, director of The Institute at Brown for Environment and Society.

More people are getting sick because of heat stroke.

Last year, more than 200 temperature records were broken in cities across the nation, sending energy grid to near-capacity and over 71,000 people to hospital for heatstroke through the months of May to September. Patients were mostly elderly but a fair number of children and middle-aged adults were also hospitalized, according to government figures. Eighty people died.

The warming weather can also hold more moisture, adding flooding and landslides to the summer forecast, something that Japan has also seen with growing frequency.

In 2019, bullet trains were partially submerged in flooding from Typhoon Hagibis. Homes and highways were caught in landslides. Flooded tunnels trapped people and cars. Dams couldn’t withstand the surprisingly heavy rainfall.

Hijioka’s research is focused on flood management, such as diverting water from swelling rivers upstream into rice paddies and ponds to drain to avert flooding.

To prevent deaths from heatstroke, a proposed law would designate certain buildings in communities, such as air-conditioned libraries, as shelters. That kind of law on the national



Visitors view seasonal cherry blossoms from a pedestrian bridge in the Roppongi district, March 31, 2022, in Tokyo.

level is new in Japan.

Despite the country’s advanced economy, some people cannot afford air conditioning, especially in areas not accustomed to the heat. Schools in northern Japan, such as in Nagano, have installed air conditioning because of the extreme heat in recent years.

“More people have been dying from heatstroke than from river flooding in Japan,” said Hijioka. “We need to view climate change as a natural disaster.”

Michio Kawamiya, director of the Research Center for Environmental Modeling and Application, and his team research Japan’s higher temperatures and how they affect people.

Among their findings: Since 1953, cherry blossoms have bloomed on average one day sooner every decade. Maple leaves have changed color 2.8 days slower per decade. The risk of typhoons has gone up and the amount

of snowfall has declined, even as the threat of heavy snowfall remains.

Japan has made some headway in curbing the amount of fossil fuels it spews, but it’s still the world’s sixth-highest emitter. After the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, the country shut down nuclear generation, and, fatefully for the climate, invested in new coal plants as well as imported oil and gas to keep its grid running. Nuclear plants have gradually restarted since then.

On the positive side, its excellent public mass-transit transportation has kept gas-guzzling cars off roads, lowering the country’s carbon footprint. Some Japanese people have been turning their air conditioning off to save energy, but that has health implications, as it comes precisely at a time when heat has been reaching dangerously high levels.

Life & Style

Jeremy Renner attends premiere, months after snowplow crush

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jeremy Renner attended the premiere for his new series Tuesday, capping a remarkable recovery less than four months after the “Avengers” star was nearly killed in a snowplow accident.



Renner

he posed for photos and did interviews, at times making use of a cane and a knee scooter. At one point he flashed photographers a thumbs up sign while moving down the carpet.

Renner was surrounded by family and supporters at the “Rennervations” premiere in Los Angeles, where

Renner was crushed by his 7-ton snowplow on New Year’s Day while trying to help free a relative’s car at his Nevada home. The actor

has said he broke numerous bones and suffered a collapsed lung and pierced liver in the accident.

“Rennervations,” which premieres on Disney+ on Wednesday, follows Renner as he transforms large vehicles into community spaces for young people in India, Mexico, Chicago and Nevada. The purposes range from serving as a mobile music studio to a water filtration truck for a

community in India.

Renner said his aim was to give young people access to things they might not already have and present opportunities they might not know existed.

Renner wrote the theme song for the show, something he did while working on another show.

“I use music and piano to write songs and use it like therapy for me,” he said.

Construction and mu-

sic have been creative outlets for Renner, who is best known for playing the superhero Hawkeye in the Marvel “Avengers” films and his own spin-off TV series.

Marvel co-star Anthony Mackie appears in the show, and Renner said the secret

to their friendship is they “laugh a lot.”

Renner, a two-time Oscar nominee, told Diane Sawyer in an interview that aired that while he thought he might die from his injuries, he refused to be “haunted” by the accident.

Man agrees to plead guilty in a Basquiat artwork fraud scheme

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former Los Angeles auctioneer has agreed to plead guilty in a cross-country art fraud scheme where he created fake artwork and falsely attributed the paintings to artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, federal prosecutors said Tuesday.

The paintings ultimately wound up at the Orlando Museum of Art in Florida before they were seized by federal agents last year in a scandal that roiled the museum and led to its CEO’s departure after he threatened an art expert and told her to “shut up.”

Basquiat, a Neo-expressionist painter whose success came during the 1980s, lived and worked in New York before he died in 1988 at age 27 from a drug overdose. The Orlando Museum of Art scandal came in 2022 when a federal raid ended in the seizure of 25 paintings whose authenticity had been in question for a decade. The museum had been the first to display the artwork, and its former director had previously insisted the artwork was legitimate.

Defendant Michael Barzman, 45, was charged Tuesday in federal court in Los

Angeles with making false statements to the FBI during an interview last year, the U.S. Attorney’s Office said in a news release. He has agreed to plead guilty and faces up to five years in prison.

Barzman’s court date has not been scheduled. Barzman admitted that he and another man, identified only as “J.F.” in court papers, had created the bogus paintings and agreed to split the sales’ proceeds.

“Mr. Barzman was drowning in medical debt after battling cancer for decades,” his attorney Joel Koury said in a statement Tuesday. “In desperation, he participated in this scheme because he was afraid of losing his health insurance. Since then, he has cooperated and done everything asked of him to compensate for his poor judgement.”

Mark Elliott, the chairman of the Orlando museum’s board of trustees, said in a statement that the museum “has recommitted itself to its mission to provide excellence in the visual arts with its exhibitions, collections, and educational programming” in the wake of the scandal.

Fed up by LA pothole, Arnold Schwarzenegger fills it himself

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fed up by an enormous pothole in his Los Angeles neighborhood, Arnold Schwarzenegger picked up a shovel and filled it himself.

The actor and former California governor tweeted a video Tuesday of him and a helper using packaged concrete to repair the road in the Brentwood area.

“Today, after the whole neighborhood has been upset about this giant pothole that’s been screwing up cars and bicycles for weeks, I went out with my team and fixed it,” he wrote on Twitter. “I always say, let’s not complain, let’s do something about it. Here you go.”

A neighbor rolled down her car window and shouted her thanks at the action movie star.



This video still image provided by The Office of Arnold Schwarzenegger, shows former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, center back, repairing a pot hole on a street in his Los Angeles neighborhood on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

“You’re welcome,” said Schwarzenegger, decked out in work boots, a leather jacket and shades reminiscent of his

role in “Terminator.” “You have to do it yourself. This is crazy. For three weeks I’ve been waiting for this hole

to be closed,” he said.

Daniel Ketchell, a spokesperson for Schwarzenegger, said Brentwood residents made repeated requests for repairs since winter storms opened up potholes and cracks on local roads.

Mayor Karen Bass last week announced a plan to address what she called an unprecedented number of damaged streets across the city. Since Dec. 30, Los Angeles has received 19,692 service requests for repairs, and as of April 6, crews had filled at least 17,549 potholes, officials said.

The Department of Public Works did not immediately respond to an email asking whether the pothole Schwarzenegger filled had been scheduled to be repaired.

Brittney Griner working on memoir about Russian captivity

NEW YORK (AP)—Saying she is ready to share the “unfathomable” experience of being arrested and incarcerated in Russia, basketball star Brittney Griner is working on a memoir that is scheduled for spring 2024.

Griner was arrested last year at the airport in Moscow on drug-related charges and detained for nearly 10 months, much of that time in prison. Her plight unfolded



Griner

at the same time Russia invaded Ukraine and further heightened tensions between Russia and the U.S., ending only after she was freed in exchange for the notorious Russian

arms dealer Viktor Bout.

A WNBA All-Star with the Phoenix Mercury, Griner had flown to Moscow in February 2022 to rejoin UMMC Ekaterinburg, a Russian women’s team she has played for in the off-season since 2014.

Gay couple struggle with family’s odd estrangement

DEAR ABBY: I’m a gay man. My husband and I have been together almost nine years, married less than one. Seven years ago, my mother-in-law decided I was no longer “allowed” to speak to her or her family. When my husband asked her why, she was unable to give him a clear answer but insists it has nothing to do with us being gay. Anytime my husband mentions my name or the life we have together, she changes the subject. I offered to write her a letter, but my husband doesn’t think it would be a good idea. He used to be close to his family, but with each passing year the relationship becomes more strained.

My mother-in-law followed a similar pattern when my brother-in-law married his wife. When they had their first child, my MIL’s behavior did a 180 and she welcomed them into the family. Now that we’re married, my husband and I have begun the process of adopting from the foster care system. I assume my in-laws will want a relationship with their grandchildren, but I don’t know if I can let go of how they’ve treated us. The strain has been especially tough on my husband. At times, it almost broke us up. I would value a relationship with my in-laws, but as things stand, I wouldn’t want them around our future children. What can we do to improve this relationship before kids come into our lives?

ISSUES WITH THE IN-LAWS

DEAR ISSUES: There may be nothing you and your husband can do. When her children fell in love and married, your MIL may on some level have felt abandoned and felt the need to punish. That she came around when your sister-in-law’s baby entered the picture is admirable. It’s possible she relented because she recognized that if she didn’t, she’d be unable to have anything to do with her grandchild. That said, do not assume she will mellow if you and her son successfully adopt. It seems the only predictable thing about the woman is her unpredictability.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: At a party recently, I met the 20-something daughter of a friend of mine. The daughter is friendly, intelligent and very nice. I told my available 20-something son about my friend’s daughter and offered to get her number from my friend, the mom. I said he could call the daughter if he was interested. I only suggested this to him. He was outraged and insisted it was weird for his mother to “fix him up.” He concluded: “Ask Dear Abby!” so I’m asking. WAS it weird for me to ask my friend about her daughter’s availability and pass along her phone number? He can call or not and, if he does, the two of them can determine if they want to meet. What say you? Thanks!

CALIFORNIA MOM

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR CALIFORNIA MOM: Weird? Heck, no. In some circles what you did is how matches are made. Thousands (maybe millions) of other mothers have done the same thing. Too bad your son reacted so negatively. Even if they weren’t romantically interested, they might have become friends. You can never have enough of those.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Lakers outlast Wolves in OT, advance to face Memphis



LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeBron James had 30 points and 10 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers claimed the seventh spot in the Western Conference playoffs with a grueling 108-102 overtime victory over the short-handed Minnesota Timberwolves in the NBA's play-in tournament Tuesday night.

Dennis Schröder scored 21 points and iced the win with two free throws with 8.4 seconds left for the Lakers, who will face second-seeded Memphis in the first round starting Sunday.

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 24 points and Mike Conley hit three free throws with 0.1 seconds left in regulation to tie it for the Wolves, who will host New Orleans or Oklahoma City on Friday for the eighth spot and a first-round date with top-seeded Denver beginning Sunday.

The Pelicans host the Thunder on Wednesday night, and Minnesota must then beat the winner to reach the playoffs for only the third time in 19 seasons.

Anthony Davis had 24 points, 15 rebounds and one tremendously ill-advised foul on Conley, who scored 23 points. Los Angeles still survived its back-and-forth meeting with Minnesota, which gave an inspired effort for the first three quarters while playing without starters Rudy Gobert and Jaden McDaniels.

Gobert is suspended for punching teammate Kyle Anderson during Minnesota's regular-season finale against New Orleans, while McDaniels is out indefinitely with a broken hand after punching a wall in frustration Sunday.

Los Angeles finally won it with defense, holding the



AP
Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James signals during the first half of an NBA basketball play-in tournament game against the Minnesota Timberwolves Tuesday, April 11, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Wolves to seven points in the final 11 minutes from midway through the fourth quarter while the Lakers rallied from a 15-point deficit in the second half. After leading for most of the night, Minnesota went scoreless for six full minutes.

Schröder drilled a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 1.4 seconds to play in regulation, but the Wolves forced overtime when Conley hit his free throws after Davis stepped on his foot after he had already released a 3-point attempt.

Los Angeles took the lead for good on a 3-pointer on the opening possession of overtime by Rui Hachimura, who had 12 points. The Wolves missed 11 consecutive shots before Anthony Edwards' dunk with 2:36 left in overtime.

Edwards scored just nine points — more than 15 below his average — and left the court briefly in the second half to get tape on his left shoulder.

D'Angelo Russell had a nightmare game for Los Angeles against the team that traded him in February, scoring two points on 1-of-9 shooting with eight assists. He was benched down the stretch in favor of Schröder, who came through tremendously.

The game was the Lakers' first non-regular-season contest played in front of a full home crowd since James joined the franchise five seasons ago. Los Angeles spent the 2020 championship run in the Florida bubble, played in front of a half-full arena in its first-round loss to Phoenix in 2021, and missed the playoffs

entirely in 2018 and 2022.

The Lakers hadn't had a full crowd for non-regular season game since April 2013, back when their arena was still Staples Center.

Minnesota coach Chris Finch said he had spent the past two days "sorting through the wreckage, if you will," of the Wolves' eventful season finale, which left his team without its best rim protector and its top point-of-attack defender on James in the clubs' recent matchups.

But Minnesota looked better than the Lakers from the start, jumping to a big early lead before making a 14-2 run to close the second quarter for a 60-49 halftime lead. The Wolves' lead finally dwindled after Towns left the game with five fouls early in the

fourth quarter.

Hawks 116, Heat 105

MIAMI (AP)—Quin Snyder's bags were packed in February for an overseas trip. He was going to spend time with some friends and family, see some coaches he's gotten to know over the years.

Then the Atlanta Hawks called with a job offer, to bring him on as coach.

And now Snyder's bags are packed again — for the playoffs, starting with a trip to Boston.

Trae Young scored 25 points, Clint Capela grabbed 21 rebounds and the Hawks earned the No. 7 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs by beating the Miami Heat 116-105 in a play-in tournament game Tuesday night.

"Our guys are trying to be the best version of ourselves at the end of the year," Snyder said. "The year's not over. So hopefully we can take this and continue to build on it. It's one game—but it was our game."

Dejounte Murray added 18 points for the Hawks, who avenged a five-game Round 1 loss to Miami last season and earned an East first-round matchup with Boston that will start Saturday.

Kyle Lowry scored 33 points—his highest-scoring game in his two Miami seasons—for the Heat, who will host either Toronto or Chicago on Friday to decide the No. 8 seed and a spot against top overall seed Milwaukee in Round 1. The Raptors and Bulls play Wednesday; the winner of Friday's game opens the series against the Bucks on Sunday.

Tyler Herro scored 26 for Miami, and Jimmy Butler finished with 21.

"Come Friday, we have to

play the legit exact opposite of how we played tonight," Butler said.

For the Hawks, four reserves—Saddiq Bey, Bogdan Bogdanovic, Onyeka Okongwu and Jalen Johnson—combined for 53 points.

The Hawks improved to 3-0 all-time in play-in tournament games; that's the best mark in the league, one that New Orleans can match when it plays host to Oklahoma City on Wednesday night.

And they earned this one on the boards. Atlanta out-rebounded Miami 63-39, including 22-6 on the offensive glass that keyed a 26-6 edge in second-chance points.

"We all understand the moment and the time of year it is," Young said. "Credit our guys for being locked in, ready and focused on the game plan."

The Hawks took two timeouts in the first 3:53 of the third quarter, as most of what was a 24-point lead with 2:37 left in the first half—63-39 Atlanta was the margin—got whittled away, and fast.

Miami cut the margin to 15 by halftime, then opened the third quarter on a 16-6 run. Add it all up, and it was a 27-8 run in about 7 minutes of play to get the Heat within 71-66.

But the Hawks had an answer then, and every other time the Heat made a run. The Atlanta lead was 13 again going into the fourth, and when Miami was within six midway through the final quarter, the Hawks scored five straight to restore a double-digit edge.

And now, a team that was the East's No. 1 seed last spring is one game from elimination.

"Nothing about this season has been easy," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We're going to do this the hard way."

DALLAS (AP)—Dallas Mavericks general manager Nico Harrison said he didn't expect the trade for Kyrie Irving to spark a playoff run the way his first blockbuster move did a year earlier.

Missing the postseason completely started the clock early for the Mavs in their attempt to re-sign Irving in free agency and see how the pairing with fellow All-Star Luka Dončić looks long-term.

The exit interview with Irving was Monday, the day after the season ended under the cloud of an NBA investigation. The league announced the probe after Irving didn't play and Dončić was limited to the first quarter when Dallas still had a chance to make the play-in tournament with two games remaining.

Irving and Dončić both

Mavs GM Harrison stays guarded on NBA probe, Irving, Dončić

sat for a meaningless season finale after a loss to Chicago in the game in question eliminated the Mavs a season after they went to the Western Conference finals.

Harrison said Tuesday he didn't know much about the NBA's investigation and wouldn't comment further. The 0-2 finish by Dallas put the club in the best position possible to keep a first-round pick that otherwise will go to the New York Knicks from Dallas' 2019 trade for Kristaps Porziņģis.

The second-year GM wasn't much more enlightening on the topics of Irving's future and the mindset of Dončić, who openly expressed his frustration with a losing season and said off-

court issues were taking away his joy for the game.

"Had a great conversation," Harrison said of his postseason meeting with Irving, an enigmatic eight-time All-Star acquired in February after telling Brooklyn he wanted to be traded. The move ended a drama-filled stint with the Nets.

"I think the things that he said along the way about how he feels here, how he feels appreciated, how he feels accepted and allowed to be himself," Harrison said. "I think those are the things that he's said kind of consistently, and that's what gives me the optimism that he wants to be here."

Dončić said he didn't agree with, but understood, the de-

cision to sit Irving and four other regulars on the night he played before coming out a few seconds into the second quarter of a 115-112 loss to the Bulls, when a rag-tag bunch of reserves couldn't hold an 11-point lead in the fourth quarter.

The 24-year-old said in his season-ending interview he was happy in Dallas, and Harrison said he didn't go to sleep at night worried about Dončić's future because the four-time All-Star has three years left before a player option kicks in on the \$215 million rookie supermax contract he signed two years ago.

Still, there's the question of keeping Dončić happy in Dallas with plenty of recent scenarios around the league

of unhappy superstars forcing their way out.

"I don't know what keeping Luka happy here means," Harrison said. "If you win, then I'm assuming he's going to be happy. If we win and he's not happy, then I wouldn't know how to keep him happy. So I think the goal is to win. I'm assuming that works. It will work for me."

Before the 2022 trade deadline, Harrison sent Porziņģis to Washington in a deal that brought Spencer Dinwiddie to Dallas. Dinwiddie was an important piece of the run to the West finals, but he went to the Nets along with defensive ace Dorian Finney-Smith in the deal for Irving.

Harrison said the difference between the outcomes

in the two trades was the Mavs were already on a roll when they made the move last year. This year, a team that couldn't find the same defensive formula got even worse on that end without Finney-Smith, and never found traction.

Dončić and Irving were 5-11 together, with each missing multiple games because of injuries. After winning their first two games with Irving, the Mavs went 7-18 the rest of the way.

"I didn't know if this would be like a magic pill. I don't think I had any visions of that," Harrison said. "But I figured it couldn't be worse than what it was. I also looked at it as a long-term play, not a short-term play."

That part is next for Harrison and owner Mark Cuban.

Rays beat Boston Red Sox 7-2 for 11th straight win



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

(AP)—The Tampa Bay Rays ran their season-opening win streak to 11 games, using another homer for Brandon Lowe and a strong performance by Shane McClellan to beat the Boston Red Sox 7-2 on Tuesday night.

Yandy Díaz and Lowe hit back-to-back solo shots with two out in the fifth inning. Lowe extended his homer streak to four straight games.

Isaac Paredes and Josh Lowe also connected for the Rays, and McClellan (3-0) struck out nine while pitching five-plus innings of one-run ball.

Tampa Bay's win streak is one game short of the franchise record set in 2004.

Garrett Whitlock (0-1) permitted five runs and eight hits in five innings in his season debut for Boston. The right-hander had hip surgery in September.

ANGELS 2, NATIONALS 0

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Shohei Ohtani pitched seven sparkling innings for the Angels, and rookie catcher Logan O'Hoppe hit his team-leading fourth homer.

Ohtani (2-0) set an Angels record with his 10th straight start allowing two or fewer runs. Nolan Ryan had a nine-game streak across the 1972-73 seasons.

The Japanese star yielded one hit, walked four and struck out six. He has allowed only one run in his first three starts and has an 0.47 ERA.

Carlos Estévez got three outs for his first save, finishing a one-hitter.

Washington's Josiah Gray (0-3) went 5 2/3 innings and allowed two runs and four hits.

MARLINS 8, PHILLIES 4

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Luis Arraez became the first player to hit for the cycle for Miami, finishing with four hits and two RBIs.

Before Tuesday, the Marlins were the only active major league team without a cycle in its history. Miami entered the National League as the Florida Marlins back in 1992.

Arraez was acquired in a January trade with Minnesota. He is 22 for 41 (.537) in 12 games to start the 2023 season.

Miami left-hander Jesús Luzardo (2-0) allowed three runs and eight hits in six innings.

Kyle Schwarber homered for Philadelphia, and Aaron Nola (0-2) was charged with



Tampa Bay Rays relief pitcher Calvin Faucher celebrates after the Rays defeated the Boston Red Sox in a baseball game Tuesday, April 11, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

four runs and nine hits in 5 2/3 innings.

ORIOLES 12, ATHLETICS 8

BALTIMORE (AP)—Ryan Mountcastle homered twice and tied a team record with nine RBIs, helping Baltimore rally for the victory.

Mountcastle hit a three-run homer in the fifth inning and added a grand slam in the seventh as the Orioles overcame a difficult home debut for right-hander Grayson Rodriguez. Austin Hays homered and had four hits for Baltimore, which handed the A's their sixth straight loss.

Mountcastle tied the franchise's single-game mark for RBIs set by Jim Gentile in 1961 and matched by Eddie Murray in 1985. He became the first player anywhere in the majors to drive in nine runs since Adam Duvall in 2020.

Shea Langeliers capped Oakland's five-run fifth with a three-run homer off Austin Voth that gave the A's a 7-3 lead. Sam Moll (0-1) got the loss.

Bryan Baker (1-0) pitched a scoreless seventh to earn the win.

BREWERS 7, DIAMONDBACKS 1

PHOENIX (AP)—Willy Adames broke up Merrill Kelly's no-hit bid in the seventh inning by smashing a solo homer to center field, sending Corbin Burnes and Milwaukee to the victory.

Kelly (0-2) and Burnes (1-1) were locked in a scoreless duel for the first six innings. Adames broke through when he led off the seventh by belting a 91 mph sinker deep to center.

The Diamondbacks had won four in a row.

Mike Brosseau homered for Milwaukee and drove in three runs. Rowdy Tellez

also went deep.

Burnes struck out eight in eight scoreless innings.

CUBS 14, MARINERS 9

CHICAGO (AP)—Nelson Velázquez hit his first career grand slam in Chicago's eight-run third inning, and the Cubs rallied for the win.

Dansby Swanson went 4 for 4 and Trey Mancini homered as the Cubs won for the fifth time in six games. Mancini had three RBIs, and Nico Hoerner had two hits and drove in two runs.

Swanson posted his fifth career four-hit game before departing in the sixth with tightness on his left side. He is batting .400 (16 for 40) in his first 10 games with his new team.

Eugenio Suárez and Jarred Kelenic homered for Seattle in its third consecutive loss. Suárez drove in three runs, and Ty France finished with three hits and two RBIs.

Michael Rucker (1-0) pitched 2 2/3 innings for the win. Chris Flexen (0-2) got the loss.

YANKEES 11, GUARDIANS 2

CLEVELAND (AP)—Gerrit Cole pitched seven effective innings and Franchy Cordero hit a three-run homer, powering the Yankees to the victory.

Cole (3-0) gave up two runs and three hits in the first before locking in and improving to 5-0 against Cleveland over the past two seasons. The right-hander beat the Guardians twice in last year's AL Division Series.

Cordero's homer in New York's five-run third off Hunter Gaddis (0-1) gave Cole a big cushion and helped the Yankees even the series after dropping the opener.

Anthony Rizzo had two

RBIs for the Yankees, and superstar Aaron Judge extended his on-base streak to 44 games.

BLUE JAYS 9, TIGERS 3

TORONTO (AP)—Kevin Kiermaier hit a solo home run and made a sensational leaping catch at the wall, leading Toronto to the win.

The Blue Jays belted five homers in their home opener in front of a sellout crowd of 42,053. Alejandro Kirk hit a three-run shot, and George Springer, Matt Chapman and Bo Bichette each hit a solo homer.

Nick Maton hit a three-run homer for Detroit in its fifth straight loss. Right-hander Matt Manning (1-1) broke a bone in his right foot when he was hit by Kirk's comebacker in the sixth.

Zach Pop (1-0) worked 1 2/3 innings for the win.

RANGERS 8, ROYALS 5, 10 INNINGS

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Jonah Heim hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning, and Jacob deGrom had nine strikeouts to break a Texas record that had been held by Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan.

Heim's 403-foot drive to right field came off Scott Barlow (0-1). Cole Ragans (2-0) got the win.

Michael Massey hit a sacrifice fly for the Royals in the 10th after they scored single runs in the eighth and ninth to force extra innings.

Texas shortstop Corey Seager exited the game in the middle of the fifth inning with left hamstring tightness.

While deGrom ended up with a no-decision, the nine Ks pushed his season total to 27 and set a new mark for a Rangers pitcher in his first three appearances—that had been Ryan's 26 after he

joined the team in 1989.

CARDINALS 9, ROCKIES 6

DENVER (AP)—Nolan Gorman sparked St. Louis' three-run ninth inning with a tiebreaking solo homer off Pierce Johnson.

Gorman's third homer of the season gave St. Louis a 7-6 lead. Paul Goldschmidt then singled in Brendan Donovan and scored on Tyler O'Neill's single.

Tommy Edman and Juan Ypez also went deep for the Cardinals, who trailed 6-2 after six innings. Nolan Arenado hit a three-run double, and rookie Jordan Walker extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

Giovanny Gallegos (1-0) pitched 1 1/3 innings for the win, and Ryan Helsley earned his second save.

Eliás Díaz, C.J. Cron and Ryan McMahon homered for Colorado, but Johnson (0-1) faltered in the ninth. McMahon also committed a costly error.

GIANTS 5, DODGERS 0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Alex Wood and five relievers combined on a three-hitter, and the Giants beat the Dodgers to end a six-game losing streak to their NL West rivals.

Joc Pederson hit a two-run double in the first inning. David Villar and Brandon Crawford hit back-to-back homers in the eighth to complement a solid effort by San Francisco's bullpen, which tossed 4 1/3 innings of two-hit ball.

A day after clubbing three homers for the fourth time this season in a 9-1 win over the Giants, the Dodgers stranded 10 baserunners.

Scott Alexander (1-0) got the win, and Dustin May (1-1) was charged with the loss.

BRAVES 7, REDS 6

ATLANTA (AP)—Matt Olson and Ozzie Albies homered, and Atlanta overcame a rocky season debut by Kyle Wright.

Michael Tonkin (1-1) earned his first win since 2016 by pitching three scoreless innings in relief of Wright.

The Braves led 7-4 before Jose Barrero's two-run homer off Joe Jiménez in the eighth. Barrero had three RBIs.

Nick Anderson pitched a perfect ninth for his first save since 2021.

Reds right-hander Luis Cessa (0-1) allowed five runs in 3 2/3 innings.

Albies' homer was the 100th of his career.

PADRES 4, METS 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Ryan Weathers got his first big league win in two years, and Manny Machado hit a key two-run double for San Diego.

Weathers (1-0), the son of former major league pitcher David Weathers, allowed one run and three hits in five innings. With his father watching from a second-row seat, the young left-hander struck out three and walked two.

Xander Bogaerts boosted San Diego's lead to 4-1 with a two-run homer in the ninth. Josh Hader got three outs for his fourth save.

New York's David Peterson (0-2) was charged with two runs in 5 2/3 innings.

PIRATES 7, ASTROS 4

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Rookie Ji-Hwan Bae hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning, lifting Pittsburgh to the victory.

Pittsburgh led 4-2 entering the ninth, but Houston's Chas McCormick hit a tying two-run double off closer David Bednar (1-0), who blew his first save opportunity in five chances.

Rodolfo Castro led off the bottom of the ninth with a single against Ryan Pressly (0-2). Pinch-hitter Andrew McCutchen singled with one out before Bae drove a 2-2 changeup deep to right-center for his second career homer.

Ji-Man Choi and Jack Suwinski also homered for the Pirates, who have won six of eight.

Alex Bregman homered in the first inning for the Astros, and Kyle Tucker went deep in the second.

TWINS 4, WHITE SOX 3, 10 INNINGS

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Hanser Alberto's throwing error allowed the automatic runner to score from second base, sending the Twins to the extra-inning victory.

With pinch-runner Willi Castro on second in the 10th, Michael Taylor put down a sacrifice bunt. Alberto's throw to first sailed wide and Castro scored to give Minnesota the win.

Twins reliever Griffin Jax (1-1) worked a perfect top of the 10th, standing Chicago's automatic runner at third.

Jesse Scholtens (0-1) was on the mound in the 10th for the White Sox, who got the game into extras after Luis Robert Jr. homered on the first pitch he saw from Jhoan Duran in the ninth.

Taylor and Byron Buxton went deep for Minnesota. It was Buxton's 100th career homer.

Guam nat'l coach to hold hoops clinic Saturday

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Guam Basketball Confederation and national coach E.J. Calvo will be conducting a basketball coaches clinic this Saturday, April 15, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The free clinic, which is being held in collaboration with the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation, will be from 9am to 12pm.

Topics to be covered include introduction to performance training, player skill development, defensive principles, drills, and strategies, early offense, team offensive drills and strategies, and practice planning.

Calvo has been a successful player, coach, and administrator of Guam basketball since returning to Guam in 2002.

He is the winningest coach in Guam national team history, with over 40 wins and

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Guam Basketball Confederation and national coach E.J. Calvo is the winningest coach in Guam national team history, with over 40 wins and only three losses in FIBA-sanctioned competitions.



two gold medals in the Pacific Games as well as three gold medals in the Micronesian Games.

With 12 wins in FIBA Asia competition, Team Guam is currently ranked No. 12 in Asia and No. 79 in the FIBA World Rankings.

As president of the Guam Basketball Confederation, Calvo continues to raise the level of the sport, and work with players of all ages in Guam and the region.

Calvo said he's looking forward to hosting the basketball clinic this weekend.

"I'm on Saipan for business and have committed to work with the NMIBF when possible. NMIBF president James Lee is working hard to improve the sport in the CNMI. When we recently met in Guam, we discussed how important youth coaches and trainers are in terms of establishing a foundation and culture for the future. I look

forward to sharing knowledge and experience with coaches and trainers of various levels this weekend, and perhaps I can work with players in the future!" he said.

Lee, for his part, said while Guam is a rival in sports it's still a friendly rivalry and both U.S. territories help each other out.

"The NMIBF is extremely grateful and honored to have Guam Basketball Confederation president and men's national head coach

E.J. Calvo, to come down and assist us with the clinic and guidance as well for our federation. Guam and the CNMI along with other national sports federations may be rivals when competing on the court, but outside the court, we're a family with the same goals," he said.

There are limited seating available for this weekend's basketball clinic and those interested are advised to RSVP the NMIBF by email or Facebook at nmibasketballfederation@gmail.com/nmibasketballfederation.



NATIVES

From Page 20

as Darion Jones flexed his muscles from the batter's box, before the Junior Nationals retired Sebatang on a 6-3 play.

Junior Nationals laid a big fat zero in the bottom of the first then allowed Benavente to scoot home for a 3-0 deficit at the start of the second.

In the bottom of the inning, the Junior Nationals' bats came alive and Sablan, Kazu Dela Cruz, and Dizele Diaz put them on the scoreboard and tied the game up at 3-3.

Starting pitcher Juan Leon Guerrero would silence Natives' batters at the start of the third then consecutive singles in the bottom of the inning by Sablan and Diaz brought Angelo Igitol home to give them the aforementioned 4-3 lead.

That was all she wrote though for the Junior Nationals, as the Natives brought out



MARK RABAGO
Junior Nationals pitcher Juan Leon Guerrero winds up against Natives in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

the big bats the next inning as they fell to 0-2.

The Natives, which improved to 2-0 in the young season, were led by Benavente's 2-for-4 performance from the plate to go along with two RBIs, one run,

and a double. Towai went 1-for-1 with 1 run and a hit-by-pitch.

Junior Suel was perfect from the plate at 3-for-3 with an RBI and a double, while Sablan went 1-for-4 but had two runs.

petition of the Tan Holdings tourney.

Haoyang Song tops the men's 3.0 with 1,350 points, followed by Marlon Bercilla and Dev Bachani with 1,250 points and 1,100 points, respectively.

In the women's 3.0, Stella Choi so far has 1,000 points to pace her division with Hua Jin and Isa Nishitani tied in close proximity with 750 points each.

In the women's 2.0, Michelle Park is atop the totem pole with 1,000 points, followed by Jalexia Rulona with 750 points and La Mee Lam and Jocelyn Paano at joint third with 500 points apiece.

By virtue of topping the Tan Holdings, Coconut Classic, and Bridge Capital tourneys, Paul Jang is untouch-

able in the men's 4.0 with 3,000 points. John Bradley and Edwin Simbulan are a distant second and third place with 1,350 points and 1,300 points, respectively.

There's no change in the men's 5.0 as Dong Min Lee with 325 points and Ronnie Lacbayo, Roy Pangelinan, Jeff Race with 250 points occupy the Top 4 slots.

Ditto in the women's 5.0 with Lydia Tan, Eunkyung Lee, and Annie Lai in the Top 3 with 250 points, 200 points, and 150 points, respectively.

It's the same situation in the men's 6.0 with David Lai (1,250 points), Felix Rulona (938 points), and John Bradley (625 points) maintaining their rankings.

only three losses in FIBA-sanctioned competitions.

Calvo is also the only Guam coach to ever win

NEW

From Page 20

Pastrana eventually would give his team the lead, 57-55, on a fastbreak layup. Gerald Flores would then make it 59-55 on a follow up with less than 3 minutes left in the game.

Pastrana would score again in transition after another defensive gem by Flores and Sid Quan would close the scoring for the game as New Chang Ming registered its third straight win after a loss on opening night.

The game was in the mud for New Chang Ming all game long, leading only 17-14 after the first quarter. They led by only 4 points, 32-28, at the half before Socho chipped in a point from their deficit, 46-49.

Jeffrey Castro paced New Chang Ming with 15 markers, while Flores and Pastrana added 12 points and 11 points, respectively.

Limes led all scorers with 21 points, while Mariano Aguon chipped in 10 for Socho, which dropped to 1-3.

In the second game, JTM Saipan improved to 4-1 in

the same open division after dumping K2 Ballerz, 75-64.

JTM Saipan got going from the get-go, taking a 26-15 spread after the first 10 minutes of play. They grew the lead in the second canto, opening a 41-24 advantage at halftime.

It was more of the same in the third with JTM Saipan cruising to a 64-46 margin coming into the fourth and final quarter.

Vinz Rodriguez paced JTM Saipan with 15 points, while Jonel Broncano and Bryan Bernardo added 11 markers apiece.

K2 Ballerz, which lost its third game in four tries, was led by the 21 points of Garrett Mariano, while Jay Palmes pitched in 12 markers.

First Game

New Chang Ming Market 66 – Castro 15, Flores 12, Pastrana 11, Palacios 8, Quan 4, Gontar 4, Almario 3, Santos 2, Standish 2, Montes 2.

Socho Team 55 – Limes 21, Aguon 10, Mettao 8, D. Faisao 5, Q. Faisao 3, Pangelinan 2, Taisague 2, Nekaifes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-14, 32-28, 49-46, 66-55.

Second Game

JTM Saipan 75 – V. Rodriguez 15, Broncano 11, Bernardo 11, Bayna 9, Demon-teverde 6, Dancel 5, Ferrer 5, Directo 4, Ruiz 3, Romo 3, Velasco 2, Cruz 2.

K2 Ballerz 64 – Mariano 21, Palmes 12, Mamis 9, Taitingfong 6, Satur 6, Lizama 4, Dikito 4, Kaipat 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-15, 41-24, 64-45, 75-64.



MARK RABAGO

New Chang Ming Market's Gerald Flores tried to block Team Socho's John Nekaifes in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League Tuesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

USUAL

From Page 20

Wang closed out the Top 3 with 1,800.

In the men's 4.0, Cody Shimizu is showing to be equally adept wearing tennis shoes as he on cleats by leading the rankings with 2,400 points that includes championships in the SIS and Bridge Capital events.

Quintin Ramsey is second with 1,650 points, followed closely by the 1,600 points of John Kenneth Casauran.

Hannah Chae, Irin Chung, Grace Choi, and Savita Sikkel are 1-2-3-4 in the women's 4.0 by virtue of their 1,000 points, 750 points, and 500 points (latter two are tied) in the doubles com-



Lakers outlast
Wolves in OT,
advance to face
Memphis
PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Guam nat'l coach
to hold hoops clinic
Saturday

PAGE 19



20 THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Natives plaster Jr. Nationals, 10-5



MARK RABAGO

Natives' Keoni Lizama gets ready to bat against Junior Nationals pitcher Juan Leon Guerrero in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By **MARK RABAGO**
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Natives used a seven-run fourth inning to beat the Junior Nationals, 10-5, in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Down 4-3, Natives took advantage of the Junior Nationals' shaky pitching in the fourth as Juan Diaz encountered some control problems.

As a result, Natives' first four batters crossed home plate as they either reached first base by hit by a pitch, base on balls, and sacrifice flies.

With men on base, the Natives' hitters then guided their runners—Cameron Towai, Perry Celis, B.J. Leon Guerrero, Keoni Lizama, Laron

Sebetang, Chris Meyers, and Juan Tenorio—home and were able to go up, 10-4, heading into the bottom of the fourth.

The Natives and Junior Nationals would trade scoreless innings until Jylon Sablan crossed home plate in the seventh that proved to be the final score of the game.

The Natives actually raced to a 2-0 lead right from the gate as Leon Guerrero and Lizama were beamed home on back-to-back occasions

See NATIVES on Page 19



New Chang Ming outduels Socho

By **MARK RABAGO**
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New Chang Ming closed out the game with a 13-0 run to defeat Socho Team, 66-55, in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Tuesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Socho grabbed the lead momentarily in the last five minutes of the match when Jon Limes rattled in a triple to make it 55-53.

However, that was the last the crowd would hear from the team as New Chang Ming shut them down the rest of the way starting with a Rodel Pastrana drive down the middle that tied the game, 55-55, at the 4:39 mark.

See NEW on Page 19



MARK RABAGO

New Chang Ming Market's Brad Palacios soars for a fast break layup against Team Socho in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League Tuesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Usual suspects atop open rankings

By **MARK RABAGO**
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Colin Ramsey and Hye Jin Elliott continue to occupy their lofty perches atop the 2022-2023 Northern Mari-

ana Islands Tennis Association men's and women's open rankings.

Ramsey has swept the men's open singles titles of the four major tournaments in the NMITA calendar—

Tan Holdings Tennis Classic, SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament, Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament, and the Bridge Capital Tennis Classic—for 4,000 points. He also got 250 points af-



ter teaming up with his brother Quentin and topping the men's open doubles for a total of 4,250 points in his bag.

Tomas Abel and youngster David Kwon trail Colin Ramsey in the rankings with 2,650 points and 2,100 points, respectively.

Elliott, meanwhile, proved to all in sundry that she's indeed the queen of the hardcourts by lording it over the women's open rankings with 4,000 points.

The only tournament that escaped her grasp was the SIS tourney where she fell to fellow national tennis team member Serin Chung. She, however, claimed the tiaras of the Tan Holdings, Coconut Classic, and Bridge Capital tourney.

Chung is second to Elliott in the women's open rankings with 3,300 points, while Hoo

See USUAL on Page 19



Ramsey



Elliott